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Japan

Editorial on Clinton's State of Union Address

OW2801063195 Tokyo TOKYO SHIMBUN in Japanese 26 Jan 95 Morning Edition p 4

[Editorial: "U.S. President Leans Toward 'Right'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The presidential State of the Union address, a regular New Year speech, was made at night (Washington time) on 24 January. We could sense the President's indomitable stance of hewing his way through the severe situation toward his reelection. However, the tone of his voice, during the speech, indicated that he was in a bitter situation and that he had to seek, in principle, "compromises."

As a result of the off-year election in November last year, the Democratic Party won the majority in both houses of the Congress, where President Clinton presented the State of the Union address. Under a Republican President, the Democrats won the majority in both houses for the first time in 40 years, or the first time since the era of President Truman. We can say that this is a revolutionary change in American politics, indeed.

In the address that night, President Clinton repeatedly called on the lawmakers to, "regardless of our party labels, cooperate with each other for the people by putting 'our country first.'" Looking back on the achievements his administration made in the past two years, he enumerated some by saying that 6 million new jobs were created, the unemployment rate went down, world trade expanded, and progress was made in controlling firearms. At the same time, he also said: "I have made mistakes and learned again the importance of humanity in all human endeavors."

As if he were looking back on strategies which guided him to victory in the presidential election two years ago, the President talked about "reform." As a "new covenant" with the people, he referred to themes such as tax reduction for middle-class people, curtailment of financial expenditure, elimination of illegal immigrants, and eradication of teenage pregnancy, which the Republicans love to hear. Christine Whitman, New Jersey Republican governor, who made the customary speech by a representative of the opposition party in response to a presidential address, sarcastically said that "the President put Republican taste" in his State of the Union address.

It seems that throughout the 50-year postwar history, the progressive world view, although vague, occupied a dominant position not only in the Untied States but also in the so-called free world. This is an optimistic feeling and people said there is no doubt that today is better than yesterday, and tomorrow will be better than today as the overall [economic] pie grows bigger. Such "grassroots" expectations among the majority of the people and the Democrats' consistent predominance in the House of Representatives were not unrelated at all.

The tendency to move toward conservatism following the shrinkage of the pie reflects the fact that the White House has been controlled, except for a brief moment, by the Republicans since the 1970's. Clinton barely won the presidential race two years ago by boldly making the middle-class people place their hopes in "parting from conventional liberalism."

After turning this expectation into disillusion, however, it is deniable that he is now lacking strong appeal.

American politics has been strengthening its stand of attaching importance to domestic affairs. This trend will continue to grow strong in the future too. On the other hand, it is certain that the United States will not be able to break away from its diplomatic confusion.

Editorial Views U.S. 'Return to Conservatism'

952A0302A Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 17 Jan 95 p 5

[Editorial: "Future of 'Gingrich Sensation'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The just-appointed House speaker is stirring up a sensation in the U.S. political world. Opposition Republican Newt Gingrich is surging ahead on his "100-day reform" aiming at dismantling the welfare state and creating a small government.

U.S. newspapers are carrying headlines which speak of the "Republican Revolution" and we see the bantering of commentary alleging, "The initiation of a period in which the President and House speaker share authority." The atmosphere is of such proportions that it seems that President Clinton's very existence has dimmed in the face of a fast-approaching radical-conservative "revolution."

Bold House reform unprecedented in the past 50 years was implemented on the 4 January, the first day of the current congressional session. Three permanent committees were abolished and a unanimous vote was cast in favor of a one- third cut in congressional staff and limitations on tenure for the positions of speaker and committee chairmen.

The overwhelming victory recorded by the Republican Party in last fall's midterm election enabled it to assume control of both houses for the first time in 40 years. The reforms were implemented under the momentum provided by that victory.

Congressional reform was listed at the head of the "Contract With America" which 300 Republican House of Representative candidates embraced as a public commitment during the election campaign. The swift implementation of the reforms quickly enhanced the reputation of the speaker.

However, the question is, will initial success lead to realization of all of the 10 items covered by the comprehensive "contract"? Any prediction would be difficult.

The "contract" calls for a small government to be achieved through constitutional amendment, imposing a balanced budget requirement on the federal government. However, validation of constitutional amendments requires the two-thirds majority approval of both houses and ratification by three-fourths of the 50 states.

The target for a balanced budget is 2002, but that goal is affected by promises not to touch pensions and Medicare in consideration of possible reactions from the middle class and a commitment to stubbornly protect defense spending to maintain U.S. prestige.

Protecting such areas means that spending in other sectors must be cut by 30 percent. Such an approach will result in the crippling of government functions.

Other problems will also arise. As an example, even if Congress agrees to spending cuts this year, next year is an election year. Congressional members up for reelection will be eager to protect the interests of constituents and to secure political funds, and it will be questionable as to whether they will agree to significant spending cuts.

Actions by Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, who is considered the most promising Republican presidential candidate, are complex. He cannot afford to easily collaborate in extreme reformist policies because he needs to impress the public of his suitability as a presidential candidate and gain their confidence.

Accordingly, I believe that the success or failure of the "Gingrich reform" will depend on the interpretation given the Republican Party's overwhelming victory in the midterm election. Gingrich assessed the election results as signaling public abandonment of the "big government" policies of Democratic Party liberals.

However, subsequent public opinion surveys indicate that election results manifested an explosion of electoral discontent because of the failure of the Clinton administration to launch effective policies against the expanding divergence between the haves and have nots. The expansion of disparity between the rich and the poor results from nothing more than eight years of priority treatment for the wealthy under the Reagan administration.

U.S. politics are influenced to the extreme by media actions. Politicians who act in a unique manner or who offer amusing news gain quick notoriety. When interest fades, they lose status rapidly.

Gingrich, who tends to be the topic of a variety of unsavory comments, has created a sensation which can be attributed to his skills at manipulating the media by dramatizing political actions.

Congressional reform succeeded to an extent under the assistance of momentum created by media tailwinds. The next step toward reform will directly affect the lifestyles of the public. The seriousness of the U.S. "return to conservatism" warrants continued observation.

Editorial on U.S. Political Scene, Vitality

952A0301A Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 17 Jan 95 p 5

[Editorial: "Vitality To Reform That Supports U.S. Political System"]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Clinton has now entered the second half of his term and is directly faced with the major test of a presidential reelection.

Early in the new year, both CNN Television and TIME magazine published the results of public opinion surveys about President Clinton. According to the surveys, only 24 percent of the public in the United States feel that President Clinton will be reelected, and 65 percent feel that it will be difficult for him to be reelected.

Further, the new session of Congress, which started on 4 January, is seeking President Clinton to launch new reforms.

New House Speaker Newt Gingrich's (Republican, Georgia) slogan is "small government." On the first day of the congressional session, Speaker Gingrich executed congressional reforms that included a reduction in standing committees and subcommittees and a substantial cut in committee staff, thus throwing the gauntlet at President Clinton.

On the other hand, the Republican Party is making demands for restructuring of government to include a constitutional revision requiring a balanced budget, welfare reform, a seven-year $1 trillion cut in spending, and administrative reform. Speaker Gingrich has declared that his goal is to implement the reforms by 13 April, which will be the 100th day since the opening of the congressional session.

We should not interpret such clashes between the administration and Congress as the launching of a difficult era or turbulence for U.S. politics. Rather, we should look upon them as reflecting the dynamism of U.S. politics. The tense relationship between the administration and the Congress provide the energy required to propel politics and reform.

The energy is sustained by a system which constantly reflects the will of the public in government actions. And that energy influences the government into constantly enforcing reforms and engenders the spirit to implement reforms in a fearless manner in compliance with the will of the public.

Needless to say, it has been mentioned that U.S. politics does have the disadvantage of being influenced significantly by public opinion surveys and popularity. The reason is that politicians are prone to give priority to policies that earn them popularity among the public.

In response to the defeat at the polls during the midterm election of last year, President Clinton rushed to announce a middle-class tax cut at the end of last year.

That decision reflected a reversal of President Clinton's previous policy which was centered on cuts in fiscal deficits and can only be construed as a move to build his popularity.

The United States has assumed a postwar political tradition of "sharing power" wherein leadership of the administration and Congress are shared between the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. During Republic administrations, the Democratic Party controlled Congress. That arrangement served to portray the U.S. public's sense of balance concerning political affairs.

President Clinton was elected by pledging 'change." During the past two years, the U.S. economy has recovered and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is being operated efficiently. High marks can be given for the efforts made at reducing fiscal deficits. But, the question remains, why do public support ratings fail to rise despite such a record?

Reasons given are the disappointment over repeated scandals and ineptness in the area of diplomacy. On the other hand, his commitment to implement medical insurance reform has been doomed to failure. They say that the public feels it has not enjoyed any increases in earnings.

However, just as President Bush's popularity suffered a sharp decline despite tremendous support ratings earned in connection with the Gulf war, U.S. public opinion is subject to extreme swings. Accordingly, President Clinton still possesses the potential to recover his popularity if he provides the public with a sense of realizing a real increase in income and displays some achievements in the diplomatic arena.

Yohei Kono 'Special Essay' on Foreign Policy

OW3101123895 Tokyo GAIKO FORUM in Japanese Jan 95 pp 12-19

["Special essay" by Yohei Kono, minister of foreign affairs: "The Course of Japan's Foreign Policy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **First, the Meaning of 1995**

I am about to greet the New Year, bracing up the whole system. As the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, 1995 is a turning point at which we should look toward a new age on the basis of the verification of the past. The year 1995 is also when diplomacy of great importance is to be developed—the economic leaders meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] forum is to be held in Japan. However, I feel my responsibility heavily because this is historically the most important period for Japan's diplomacy.

Needless to say, in recent years the environment surrounding Japan's diplomacy has changed qualitatively.

For the past 50 years, what has conditioned the general tendency of international relations as a whole has been East-West relations, with the United States and its tremendous national power standing on one side of the axis. It is now several years since the Cold War between the East and the West ended due to the collapse of the former Soviet Union. In Asia, where Japan is located, the end of the Cold War did not bring about a dramatic change in international relations for the following reasons: First, there were several factors besides the U.S.-Soviet confrontation, such as the existence of China and North Korea (the Democratic People's Republic of Korea), which drew a clear line of demarcation against the former Soviet Union during the Cold War era; second, there was no collective security system like NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) or the Warsaw Treaty Organization in Europe. However, the fact that this is no longer the era when the United States and the present Russia—which had influenced the global, international order since the end of World War II—should decide action on their own in terms of Cold War thinking means the actual loss of the idea of "Japan as a member of the West" against the East, which had been one of the value standards for Japan to pursue in taking action in political and security matters. And we have to admit that the loss of that idea has brought about a very important change in Japan's diplomacy. Of course, there is a strong probability that countries like the United States, European countries, and Japan, which formed the West, will band together and take the same action in the end as before. However, each country will act on the basis of its own national interests in individual international problems, and not on the basis of a simple value judgment like being "a member of the West."

An environmental change in the international economy is also conspicuous. This is no longer the age of the overwhelmingly strong U.S. economy and the strong dollar. Following the relative fall of U.S. economic power, remarkable economic development in the East Asian region and good prospects for its future economic development have greatly redrawn the map of the international economy. Generally speaking, the economies of the so-called advanced democracies are showing slow growth, and moves to expand markets through the establishment of free trade markets like the EU (European Union) and NAFTA (North Atlantic Free Trade Area) are conspicuous. There is no hope for Japan's high economic growth to continue as it has, nor are there any signs that the economic friction caused by Japan's vast current account surplus with foreign countries will subside. As before, there is an increasing necessity for economic policy coordination among advanced democracies through the G-7 [Group of Seven], while the prevailing view is that now is the age when each country competes at the risk of its own or its region's economic interests. At the same time, problems that have been recognized to be principally domestic have become the objects of international discussion due to the development of the borderless economy.

How does a great change in the international environment affect Japan's diplomacy?

For one thing, further efforts will be required to strengthen steady, bilateral relations. It has become increasingly important for us to build genuine mutual trust separately through exchanges at various levels. And Japan's diplomacy has come to have a wide choice due to the end of the Cold War. Japan will no longer decide on its diplomatic policies on the basis of the idea that "Japan is a member of the West." This also means that Japan must have an accurate, proper value standard for grasping its national interests to make a diplomatically correct choice. Such a value standard must be made within Japan itself.

I think that a recent change in the domestic political environment in Japan will help it establish such a fundamental ideal in diplomacy. For one country to conduct its diplomacy steadily, there must be a major domestic consensus on the fundamental issues of national diplomacy and security. As evidenced from past Diet discussions, ideological confrontation within the country has prevented Japan from reaching such a diplomatic consensus. Fortunately, a change in domestic politics has made it possible for us to deepen a realistic discussion on foreign policies in the political arena. It can be said that an environment has been created within Japan and beyond its borders that is conducive to deepening a broad national consensus on diplomatic and security policies.

Ideals of Japan's Diplomacy

What is the ideal upon which Japan's diplomacy should be based in such a new age, and what is the coordinate axis by which Japan is going to realize that ideal in the real international community?

I think that democracy, liberalism, and respect for fundamental human rights are the universal ideals aimed at providing the best political, economic, and social foundations for peace and prosperity, although the modes of realization of these goals may have characteristic features according to the historical and cultural backgrounds of each nation. I think the common recognition of this fact is spreading internationally.

Since the end of World War II, Japan has consistently followed not only these universal ideals specified in the Constitution of Japan but also the peace diplomacy line, thus realizing the present peace and prosperity. At the same time, we should not overlook the fact that Japan's peace and prosperity are not of our own making and that they are possible only as part of our mutual relations with the international community, including neighboring countries and allied nations. Many of these countries share the same fundamental ideals as Japan, and they are making efforts for the realization of peace and prosperity. Some countries have gone through a big political change, like the former communist countries, and they are seeking a new social, economic change on the basis of those fundamental ideals. And a number of developing countries, in an effort to develop, are gradually making those fundamental ideals their social foundations, and I think a base is growing for cooperation between Japan and these countries.

Naturally, the purpose of Japan's diplomacy is to realize its own national interests, and for this purpose Japan needs to build not only a favorable international environment conducive to Japan, but also good relations between itself and each nation. In this case, Japan should devote itself wholeheartedly to peaceful diplomacy on the basis of the fundamental ideals it believes in, should make its economic and social systems more open, should make efforts for the stable improvement of its national life, should give assistance and call for an effort for the establishment of peace and prosperity in cooperation with each nation, and should strive for coexistence and coprosperity.

In the address I delivered at the United Nations General Assembly last September, I stated that Japan is determined to contribute to the peace and prosperity of the world, that it will not use armed force which is prohibited by its Constitution, that it will give active cooperation to UN peacekeeing activities, and that it is fully determined to contribute more than ever to global economic and social issues. These resolutions and policies are never based on the narrow recognition that Japan must undertake international cooperation to raise Japan's international status. The reason Japan is going to promote these policies is that to realize international society's further peace and prosperity, the common efforts of the international community as well as Japan's cooperation with each country—on the basis of democracy, liberalism, and respect for fundamental human rights, which Japan believes in—are necessary and that this, in its turn, is believed to be in accord with Japan's national interests.

I have put together Japan's fundamental ideals in this way, and I will mainly promote diplomatic policies that conform to those fundamental ideals.

I think that from such a standpoint, some policies in certain areas will become more important than ever.

First is in the area concerned with the preparation of the base for democracy on a mid-long term basis.

Japan has already become the biggest donor nation. In addition to the traditional development assistance, which aims for the stable improvement of developing countries' public welfare as well as the removal of the causes of social instability or conflicts through bilateral assistance or international agencies, Japan should strengthen its assistance to the founding of democratic systems in developing countries or countries in the process of organizational cha:nge. As unofficial exchanges as well as entrepreneurial activities across national boundaries increase with the advent of a borderless international community, it has become very important for Japan to make its own effort and to strengthen its assistance to a partner country to further promote unofficial cultural exchanges which deepen mutual understanding.

In addition, Japan has broad policies concerning its Official Development Assistance, which, as enforced, stipulate paying attention to the military expenditures, moves in the development and manufacture of weapons of mass destruction, the promotion of democratization, and efforts for the introduction of a market economy in developing countries; I think Japan should make positive use of these principles. Regarding the promotion of democratization, it is sometimes unrealistic for Japan to dioectly link its aid to an individual policy of a recipient country on a short-term basis; it should make a judgment after observing the recipient country's attitude toward the matter for some time. And suspension of aid should be a means of last resort; I rather think that if the recipient country introduces a desirable policy, it is proper for Japan to make efficient use of aid to encourage such an endeavor. If there is an observable change toward democratization in Myanmar [Burma], for example, Japan will make positive efforts in the area of assistance.

Second is in the area of arms reduction and nonproliferation.

There is no room for argument that even after the collapse of a form of international order called East-West relations, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the excessive accumulation of ordinary weapons threaten world peace. Japan has made great efforts for arms reduction and nuclear nonproliferation under its nonnuclear policy and its arms export embargo policy. Japan must firmly maintain such a position in the future as well. Japan has produced satisfactory results by establishing the UN Armaments Registration System [as published] in cooperation with the European Community [EU]. In the area of nuclear arms reduction, Japan single-handedly proposed a resolution calling for an ultimate abolition of nuclear arms at the UN General Assembly last November, the purpose of which was to promote a realistic nuclear arms reduction. And Japan succeeded in having the resolution approved by an absolute majority without a single dissenting vote. All this is based on my firm belief that Japan should take the lead in the area of arms reduction and on my judgment that the sharp confrontation between nuclear and nonaligned nations in the area of arms reduction must be eased. Extension and re-exmaniation of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] is to be discussed this spring. The realization of an indefinite postponement of the treaty and the effort for an early conclusion of an all-out nuclear test ban treaty are very important for the stability of the nuclear nonproliferation structure as well as for the further promotion of nuclear arms reduction. Japan will continue to take the initiative in the area of arms reduction, including the problem of removing mines in a country like Cambodia, which is taking a great step toward democratization.

Third is the area of peacekeeping activities.

Japan sent its Self-Defense Forces to Cambodia, Mozambique, and Zaire after its enactment of the International Peace Cooperation Act. Although the international community is still in its groping stage as to how to maintain world security after the end of the Cold War, there are increasing requests for Japan's participation in peacekeeping activities and its assistance to refugees within the limits of the International Peace Cooperation Act.

When Japan's dispatch of its Self-Defense Forces is judged to be worthwhile, I will take an active step toward the dispatch according to the International Peace Cooperation Act and with adequate consideration for their safety.

So far, I have discussed what Japan's diplomatic ideals should be and in what fields we should take an active policy under those ideals. I think it is important to confirm again the coordinate axis of Japan's diplomacy to realize those ideals.

The Coordinate Axis of Japan's Diplomacy

The relationship between Japan and the United States has consistently been the cornerstone of Japan's diplomacy since the end of World War II. I think the Japan-U.S. relationship will continue to be the cornerstone of Japan's diplomacy despite a great change in the international environment since the end of the Cold War as well as a great change in the actual condition of the Japan-U.S. relationship due to the passage of time.

One of the reasons the Japan-U.S. relationship is the cornerstone of Japan's diplomacy is that both countries have a constitution similar in its fundamental ideals, such as democracy, liberalism, and respect for fundamental human rights. Japan and the United States are in league with each other because they share fundamentally the same type of government with those fundamental ideals as the center.

The second reason is that to maintain stability in the Asia-Pacific region, it is desirable for the United States to maintain its presence in the region even after the end of the Cold War and to play a role in stabilizing the region. I think the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, which forms the keynote of the Japan-U.S. relationship, is a source of great relief to many Asian nations, and the Japan-U.S. security structure is really a stabilizing factor in the Asia-Pacific region.

At the same time, we must not forget the fact that both Japan and the United States need perpetual efforts to maintain a good relationship. Behind friction of all sorts between Japan and the United States lies a relative change in economic power between the two countries as well as a change in the way the peoples of the two countries see each other. In the course of economic aggrandizement, Japan caused the United States to feel threatened and bred a view that Japan is a special country. And we cannot deny the fact that the economic friction between Japan and the United States has intensified, combined with Japan's one-sided trade surplus with the United States, that the feeling toward Japan has become worse in the United States, and that a dislike for the United States has been developing in Japan in connection with the United States' strong demands. However, it is beyond question that economic relations between the two countries are of intrinsic economic benefit to both of them. The most important thing in the future Japan-U.S. economic relationship is to confirm the fact that each is reaping its own benefit. For this purpose, both countries must conduct a thorough discussion according to the rules of free trade and take proper measures. In the recent trade framework negotiations, U.S. Trade Representative Kantor and I conducted long negotiations, sitting up all night putting the finishing touches on the priority sectors, and I think we reached a mutually satisfactory agreement. Both Japan and the United States need to make efforts so the agreement will bear concrete results. The most important thing for Japan to do is to conduct substantial economic deregulation and build truely transparent, competitive, and open markets to further promote the exchange of private enterprises between the two countries as well as the mutual entry of private enterprises into each other's markets, and Japan's further harmony and unity with the international community.

On the basis of reliable and stable security and economic relations, I would like to enlarge the width of Japan-U.S. relations to realize Japan's diplomatic ideals I have mentioned above. I think Japan-U.S. cooperation in global issues, like the environment, population, and AIDS, is on the right track. In addition, I would like to promote Japan-U.S. cooperation in the assistance for establishing the foundation of democracy, in arms reduction and nuclear nonproliferation issues, or in UN peacekeeping activities.

As the coordinate axis of Japan's diplomacy, I am thinking of drawing three concentric circles: cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, with bilateral relations as the center—like relations with the United States, China, Korea and other neighboring nations; global cooperation with the G-7 as the axis; global cooperation with the United Nations as the axis. Of the three concentric circles, the outline of the Asia-Pacific circle with APEC as its center is gradually becoming clear, although it is still hazy. Regarding the other two global circles, discussion for strengthening the function of the G-7 and the United Nations is underway. I think Japan should make good use of bilateral relations like the Japan-U.S. relationship and the Japan-China relationship to promote cooperation in these two global circles.

I think Japan should become a permanent member of the UN Security Council to firmly establish a big coordinate axis of Japan's diplomacy—global cooperation.

The UN Security Council has the primary responsibility for international peace and security, and it is the only agency that can make a binding decision. What is playing an important role in maintaining order in today's international relations is not the overwhelming military power of some countries, but international cooperative action, which is directed not only against various conflicts which threaten peace but also against unstable elements like the proliferation of nuclear arms. It is unnatural for a country like Japan, which plays an important role in such international cooperative action, not to belong to the council as a permanent member that decides on the cooperative action. A number of foreign countries, including neighboring nations in Asia, are voicing the same opinion on this matter.

I hope the way will be paved for Japan to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council so that its ideals mentioned above can be reflected in the international community. There is an argument that if Japan becomes a Security Council permanent member, military duties which it does not desire may be forced on it. I think I clearly stated in my recent address at the UN General Assembly that there are military matters which Japan cannot perform. If the international community judges that such a country as Japan is unfit to be a permanent member, there is nothing that can be done about it. However, I would like to reiterate the Japanese Government's position: How a country should behave as a permanent member is essentially a matter of choice for that country; the international community can never dictate to that country; Japan has only to act according to its own ideals.

Toward Prosperity in the Asia-Pacific Region

I think that in Japan's diplomacy it is of urgent necessity to strengthen the so-called Asia-Pacific coordinate axis. The reason is that building up open markets in the potentially rich Asia- Pacific region and making the flow of investment much easier will bring economic benefits to all the countries in the region. In addition, to promote cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region is to establish a firm foundation for mutual benefit between Japan and its important partners like the United States, China, and South Korea. Of course, there are a number of problems to be solved to materialize Asia-Pacific regional cooperation. First, this region has as its characteristics pronounced differences in the stages of economic development, state administrative systems, and culture and history. Second, in this region there are countries that are militarily, politically, and economically very influential like the United States, China, and Japan, and there is a history of complicated bilateral and multinational relations. Therefore, Asia- Pacific regional cooperation needs to be developed cautiously and in stages so that a small country will not come under dominance of a big one. Moreover, Japan should not forget remorse for the past. The most important thing for Japan to do is to faithfully handle the Peace and Friendship Exchange Program and other individual problems on its own initiative and according to the postwar problems disposal plan announced by Prime Minister Murayama last summer. The disposal of such postwar problems is no longer a diplomatic issue between Japan and other foreign countries, but an issue to be solved under Japan's own responsibility. By assuming responsibility for what Japan has done in the past, confidence between Japan and other Asian nations will be strengthened all the more.

Asia-Pacific economic cooperation, with APEC as the center, has entered a new stage. APEC's economic leaders meeting in Indonesia last fall "adopted a long-term project aimed at free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region," and it declared that "advanced economies will accomplish the project aimed at free and open trade and investment not later than 2010, and developing economies will accomplish the same project not later than 2020." Of course, there will be a number of problems to be solved by each country to promote such liberalization of trade and investment. However, AEPC economies working jointly for such a common project will give an impetus to Asia-Pacific regional cooperation. It is also important for APEC to deal with the problems of development and cooperation. As chairman of the APEC meeting to be held in Osaka this year, Japan must make every effort to take the first step toward the realization of such a project by summoning up all its wisdom.

In addition, Japan has two definite political tasks in the Asia-Pacific region.

One of them is to normalize the abnormal situations that still exist in this region. Needless to say, we must ease the tension on the Korean Peninsula and promote dialogue between North and South Korea. We should strengthen our efforts to improve the relationship between Japan and North Korea in conjunction with the promotion of the dialogue between North and South Korea or the improvement of the relationship between the United States and North Korea. I would like to call for the reopening of negotiations for diplomatic normalization between Japan and North Korea with the understanding that North Korea will carry out the U.S.-North Korea accord. I think this will benefit both Japan and North Korea. Moreover, the fact that the relationship between Japan and Russia is not completely normalized is a matter of deep regret from the standpoint of Asia-Pacific regional cooperation. If the relationship between Japan and Russia is completely normalized, that will give great impetus to Asia-Pacific regional cooperation covering such fields as politics, economics, security, and others. Concerning the territorial issue that exists between the two countries, there is already a firm foundation for the settlement of the issue—the Tokyo Declaration. I am convinced that if the two countries conduct negotiations with a firm political determination to conclude a peace treaty, the territorial issue will be solved.

The second political task is to strengthen dialogue in the region and to consolidate the region's security system, including arms control and arms reduction. It is important to promote dialogue for fostering mutual trust at the ASEAN regional forum. I also would like to enliven the region's dialogue concerning the problem of extension of the NPT as well as the problem of an early conclusion of an all-out nuclear test ban treaty. Concerning the problem of nuclear nonproliferation, the recent U.S.-North Korea accord will bring a bright prospect to the future of the region's security. I think the process of fulfilling this U.S.-North Korea accord can hold special significance for the region's security. Needless to say, it is necessary for North Korea to faithfully carry out this agreement, but if the framework of international cooperation, including Russia, China, and other G-7 nations, is established at the initiative of Japan, the United States, and South Korea regarding the issue of cooperation in light-water reactors, disposal of fuel rods, and scrapping of existing reactor-related facilities, this is expected to bring a stable element to the region's security, for such cooperation requires an effort of more than 10 years. I think Japan should give lend cooperation within such a framework.

In concluding my discussion on the course to be followed by Japan, I would like to touch upon the importance of intellectual exchanges.

In Europe today, a trend toward European union on the basis of the Treaty of Maastricht is conspicuous, but such a trend was not produced overnight. We must not overlook the fact that over the past several decades there was an accumulation of intellectual exchanges concerning the future of Europe among politicians, bureaucrats, businessmen, journalists, and common students as well. There must be an expansion of intellectual and personnel exchanges in various fields and at various levels in the Asia-Pacific region as well, fixing our eyes on the region's future. It is expected that the Peace and Friendship Exchange Program, to be carried out with a fund of 100 billion yen over 10 years starting this year, will make a great contribution to such intellectual and personnel exchanges.

I firmly believe in the bright future of the Asia-Pacific region. Japan must conduct creative diplomacy under a definite ideal and coordinate axis to realize such a bright future.

Tsutsumi Denies Deadline for Auto Parts Talks

OW3101113695 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 31 Jan 95 Morning Edition p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on the negotiations on automobiles and auto parts under the Japan-U.S. economic framework talks at a 30 January news conference, Tomio Tsutsumi, administrative vice minister of international trade and industry, said, "We want to move the negotiations forward as soon as possible, but no agreement has been reached between Japan and the United States on a deadline for the negotiations." In this way, he denied the U.S. assertion that the end of March is a deadline for the negotiations.

Commenting on vice-ministerial negotiations that were held in Washington late last week, he said: "The vice-ministerial negotiations left a strong impression that there were differences between the two countries." Both Japan and the United States will hold the next negotiations in Tokyo in early February. These negotiations will be attended by division-chief-level officials from the two countries.

Steelmakers Criticize U.S. Dumping Ruling

OW2901130295 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 28 Jan 95 Evening Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Department of Commerce has tentatively decided to slap high antidumping tariffs on Japanese-made steel pipes for oil wells. Japanese steelmakers have reacted against the tentative decision by the U.S. Department of Commerce, claiming: "We have exported mainly high-quality steel pipe, which U.S. steelmakers cannot manufacture, to the U.S. market. Our exporters have never dumped our steel pipes on the U.S. market and caused damage to U.S. steelmakers."

Communications Firms Joining U.S. Organization

OW3101020995 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 29 Jan 95 Morning Edition p 7

[Article by New York correspondent Motohiro Matsumoto]

[FBIS Translated Text] Some Japanese firms have become members of a U.S. business organization that was formed with the aim of promoting the information superhighway. Their membership is considered as being of great significance and has paved the way for them to sell their communications apparatuses on the huge U.S. multimedia market, and to get involved in the work of standardizing communications apparatuses that have been under the control of the United States. Japanese companies are said to lag considerably behind their American counterparts in the development of multimedia. Japanese firms will use their membership in the U.S. business organization that is standardizing communications apparatuses as an opportunity to break away from their "subcontracting" positions, whereby they supply communications apparatuses to U.S. users after manufacturing them according to U.S. specifications.

The information superhighway will be involve a variety of communications apparatuses including "video servers" that control video information, and ATM (asynchronous transfer mode) switchboards which help smooth the flow of information between consumers, and broadcasting stations and telephone companies. The U.S. business organization, named XIWT (Cross-Industry Working Team), that NEC Corporation and Fujitsu Ltd. have joined, will propose the standards for these communications apparatuses.

If U.S. corporations continue to lead the way in promoting the standardization of communications apparatuses, Japanese firms will fall even further behind their American counterparts in developing communications apparatuses and cracking the U.S. market. Japanese firms are expected to pay huge amounts of royalties to American corporations holding patents in the process of standardizing communications apparatuses. If Japanese firms participate in the standardization of these communications apparatuses, this will lessen the risk of them having to pay huge royalties.

One of the aims of American corporations is to keep the technology of the ATM switchboard from being transferred to other nations. American corporations are leading Japanese and European companies in the development of multimedia apparatuses, but they are now competing with their Japanese and European counterparts in developing ATM switchboard technology. There has been a case in the past where Fujitsu Ltd. and NEC Corporation beat out their American rival AT&T in bidding for the supply of a telephone switchboard to an American telephone company.

If the ATM switchboard is standardized internationally, this will benefit U.S. broadcasting stations and telephone companies, as well as the U.S. Government.

Communications Panel Drafts Network Standards

OW3101043095 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 30 Jan 95 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Ministerial talks on an international information network for the G-7 industrialized nations are set to be held in Belgium in late February to discuss ways to promote the standardization of connections for multimedia and communications systems. A draft proposal, to be presented by Japan at the ministerial talks, calls for global specifications to be adopted from the variety of specifications currently used by individual companies around the world. The distinctive feature of the draft proposal is its emphasis on the specifications used by the private sector around the world.

The Standardization Policy Panel under the Telecommunications Technology Council (an advisory body to the posts and telecommunications minister) has mapped out the draft proposal as part of an effort to prepare for the ministerial talks.

For multinational teleconferences to be held and for information to be exchanged around the world, it is necessary to unify the methods of connecting of multimedia and communications systems. In the telecommunications field, representatives of member nations of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) have held talks to discuss ways to unify specifications. The signal formulas and the methods of connecting analogue telephones and facsimile machines have been unified through that process and the unified formulas and the methods have been used widely around the world. Private companies in industrialized nations have increasingly formed groups to standardize their telecommunications and personal computers since the early 1990's. According to the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, the private companies have so far formed more than 50 groups which can exchange information.

For example, there is a "video on demand" system under which subscribers of the system can pick movies they want to see from databases both at home and abroad. The American business group is pitted against Japanese and European groups. They cannot exchange information because of their different system and signal types.

In this new field, the specifications of a business group which is more active in the world market are becoming "de facto standards" of the world. For this reason, the draft proposal calls for formulating a rule to designate the "de facto standards" as the world's standards.

Nonaligned States Urged To Back NPT Extension

OW3101043295 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN in Japanese 29 Jan 95 Morning Edition p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] The final preparatory meeting held in New York for a conference, scheduled for April, on the extension and review of the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) ended on 27 January with countries failing to reach an agreement. Because it is uncertain that the "unconditional and indefinite extension" of the treaty proposed by developed countries such as Japan and the United States will be adopted at the April conference, the Japanese Government is to make all-out efforts to persuade the nonaligned countries, which are opposed to or have not made clear their positions on the proposal, to agree to permanent extension.

Under the treaty effectuated in 1970, countries are required to decide this year whether the NPT should be extended "indefinitely" or it should be extended for "fixed periods." The treaty allows only five nations—the United States, Britain, France, Russia, and China—to have nuclear weapons, while strictly restricting the possession by other countries. Because of this, nonaligned states have claimed: "The pact is unfair because it treats nuclear powers favorably." More than 20 nonaligned countries, including Iran and Egypt, are calling for the "limited extension of the NPT."

At the final preparatory meeting, the Iranian delegate said: "The NPT will be extended indefinitely only after countries have fulfilled the duties imposed by the treaty, such as of ensuring the security of nonnuclear states, suspending nuclear arms races, and promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy." Apparently being mindful of Israel, which is said to be capable of possessing nuclear weapons but is not a signatory of the NPT, the Egyptian delegate said: "The most important thing is for every country to join the NPT so that the universality of the pact will be ensured." In this way, he indicated that Egypt would not immediately agree to the unconditional, indefinite extension of the treaty.

The NPT review and extension conference is scheduled from 17 April to 12 May at the UN Headquarters in New York. For Japan and Western countries to have their "unconditional and indefinite extension" proposal adopted at the conference, it is necessary to gain the support of 86 countries, the majority of 170 NPT signatories. So far, 65 have expressed support. Japan, the United States, and other Western countries are to persuade nonaligned countries to agree to permanent extension.

Friction With UK Over Liquor Tax Rekindles

Tokyo Defends Tax

OW3101093895 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 30 Jan 95 Morning Edition p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] The Britain-Japan friction over Japan's imposition of the liquor tax on imported whiskey has begun to rekindle. Britain has claimed, "It is unfair that the rate of the liquor tax imposed by Japan on imported whiskey is far higher than that on shochu [Japanese white distilled liquor] despite the fact that they belong to the same distilled liquor category." Britain is now set to take its case to the World Trade Organization (WTO) through the European Union (EU). But the Finance Ministry is spurning Britain's claim, saying, "We cannot reduce the differentials [kakusa] to zero in imposing the liquor tax because of their largely different character." Nonetheless, the Finance Ministry is not hiding its embarrassment because the United States and other European nations are increasingly complaining about Japan's imposition of differential liquor tax on imported whiskey and shochu. To compare the amount of liquor tax imposed on 25 proof liquor, Japan imposes about 15 yen in liquor tax for shochu per kiloliter while slapping 95 yen in liquor tax for imported whiskey per kiloliter. Thus, the amount of the differential liquor tax between them is nearly six times. Britain is claiming, "Japan's imposition of differential liquor tax on imported whiskey and shochu that are distilled by the same method constitutes a violation of the WTO accord that makes it mandatory for member nations to treat equally both domestically produced goods and imported goods."

In the first half of the 1980's, the amount of differential liquor tax between imported whiskey and shochu was more than 10 times. At that time, Britain took its complaint to GATT which ruled that Japan should correct the imposition of the differential liquor tax. Faced with the ruling, Japan was forced to largely revamp the liquor tax system including the abolition of the liquor grading system in 1989.

The Finance Ministry is saying, "We met almost all the demands from foreign nations when we revamped the liquor tax system in 1989," (according to the Tax

Bureau). The Alcoholic Beverage Tax Bureau of the National Tax Administration Agency is claiming, "The way of drinking whiskey and shochu is totally different." In this way, the Finance Ministry is set to resist any demands from foreign nations for further correcting the imposition of the differential liquor tax.

Nevertheless, the British whiskey industry is claiming, "Japan's correction of the differential liquor tax is still far from being sufficient." Moves are afoot in Britain to take the case to the WTP which was inaugurated just one month ago. Like Britain, France (brandy), the United Sates and Canada (whiskey) are complaining about Japan's imposition of the differential liquor tax. There is a strong possibility that if those nations take their cases to the WTO, it will rule against the Finance Ministry.

UK Official Urges Deregulation

OW3101085295 Tokyo KYODO in English 0705 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Jan. 31 KYODO—British Secretary of State for Trade and Industry Michael Heseltine on Tuesday [31 January] called for the Japanese Government to step up its drive toward deregulation as a way to ease foreign entry into Japan's market.

"It is vital that foreign firms have the chance to compete on an even footing in Japan and contribute to the Japanese economy," Heseltine told the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan.

He said, "it is not just a question of differential taxation rates for spirits - though that remains an unnecessary and unjustified barrier in international trade which I urge your government to rectify rapidly."

"Regulations act as a barrier here in many sectors where Britain is internationally competitive—pharmaceuticals, food and drink and retailing, to name just a few," said Heseltine, who is in Japan along with a host of British businessmen for a five-day visit which began Saturday.

Heseltine said the British Government submitted a list of deregulation measures to Japan last year which it believes would help foreign firms to do business here.

"Many of them (Japanese regulations) have caused problems for British firms for years. We very much hope to see early progress on this," he said.

As part of efforts to rectify what Britain views as Japanese trade barriers, Heseltine on Monday urged Japan's Finance Ministry to lower duties on scotch whisky.

However, Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura did not make any clear commitment on the issue.

Britain has complained that Japan's tax on its domestically produced shochu spirit is six times lower than that on scotch whisky, putting British distillers at a disadvantage.

Response to Foreign Offers of Aid Criticized

OW3001091195 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 28 Jan 95 Morning Edition p 5

[Editorial: "Japan Should Urgently Establish a System of Smoothly Responding to Foreign Goodwill"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the morning of 18 January, the day after the great Hanshin earthquake occurred, the South Korean Foreign Ministry made an offer through the Japanese Embassy in Seoul of dispatching a medical team and relief workers to Japan.

In response, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said: "We will decide whether to accept your offer after asking the quake-hit region whether they need foreign help." The ministry then informed the National Land Agency, under which the disaster countermeasure headquarters has been established, of the offer from Seoul. It was the morning of 21 January when the Foreign Ministry made an official response to Seoul's offer, saying: "We will request help when we need it." Eventually, the Japanese Government received from Seoul two batches of daily necessities weighing a total of 300 tons.

Why did Tokyo not accept a South Korean medical team? There are many South and North Koreans living in Japan who have suffered from the earthquake. A dispatch of doctors from their mother country would have encouraged them greatly. Also, these doctors could have helped Japanese victims because we are sure many of them can speak Japanese. The government should have accepted South Korean doctors because there were apparently not enough doctors.

The government is urged to reconsider various things, to work out and implement new disaster prevention measures. In particular, it is urged to reconsider its response to foreign aid offers.

Since the earthquake, 59 countries and three international organizations have offered the dispatch of rescue teams and personnel and physical support. Of the offers, the Japanese Government has accepted rescue teams with search dogs from Switzerland and France. It has also received relief goods from the U.S. forces in Japan and from Mongolia. The United States has sent a private medical team to the quake-hit region. Although the government is preparing to accept more aid from 22 countries, mostly relief goods, its response to foreign aid is very slow. Moreover, it plans to decline aid offers from many other countries.

Many Japanese must be wondering why the government does not receive the goodwill of foreign countries. It is true that immediately after a devastating earthquake hit Northridge, Los Angeles, a year ago, Washington declared that no aid from other countries would be necessary. However, the damage in the Hanshin region is greater than that in Los Angeles.

After asking relevant government offices and local municipalities whether they wanted help from foreign countries, the National Land Agency gave the Foreign Ministry its opinion on whether to accept foreign offers. People at the disaster scene must have thought foreigners would not be a big help because they would have difficulty communicating and were not familiar with the place. They also must have thought they could not afford to provide personnel in such great confusion to act as interpreters, and provide accommodations and meals to foreign rescuers.

However, foreign rescuers would not ask for special meals and treatment. Cities neighboring the quake-hit areas would provide accommodations if asked. And there would certainly be people who would volunteer to work as interpreters.

Rescue teams from Switzerland and France have found the bodies of 11 missing people. Some of them could have been rescued alive if the government had accepted the rescue teams earlier.

Initially, the government did not allow foreign doctors without Japanese medical licenses to see victims in accordance with Japan's medical practitioner's law. It was eight days after the quake when it allowed them to see and treat victims. The government initially used the restrictions in the law as a reason to decline foreign offers of sending medical teams to Japan. However, it should have immediately decided to accept the offers.

The same can be said of its response to offers of relief goods. The government has declined many offers extended by countries with economic difficulties. There will be more work for the government if it accepts more foreign offers. However, it should not give a negative response, or it will never understand the goodwill of the international community.

The Japanese archipelago will experience other disasters in the future. Thus, it is an important task for the central and local governments to create a system of smoothly accepting foreign goodwill in preparation for future disasters.

Poll: 53 Percent Critical of Quake Handling

OW3001152395 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 29 Jan 95 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The ASAHI SHIMBUN conducted a nationwide telephone public opinion poll for two days from 27 to 28 January to survey what the people thought of the Hanshin earthquake, the worst earthquake since the end of the Pacific War. The results of the nationwide telephone public opinion poll showed that 84 percent of the respondents thought the Hanshin earthquake was far more serious than they anticipated while 66 percent of them said they feared a recurrence of the same earthquake in areas where they resided. Nearly 60 percent of those surveyed thought that even if an antidisaster system was in place, it would be unable to head off a big disaster. Meanwhile, a majority of the surveyed took a critical view of the government's response to the Hanshin earthquake.

According to the results of the poll, 29 percent said their families, relatives and acquaintances were affected by the Hanshin earthquake, and 9 percent said their jobs and life were affected. Nearly 40 percent of those surveyed were found to have been affected one way or another by the Hanshin earthquake. The percentage in southern Japan was nearly 60 percent.

Asked about the government's handling of the earthquake, only 4 percent said, "We highly applaud" [the government's reaction] whereas 35 percent of them said, "We applaud to some extent." Thus, 39 percent of the surveyed took a favorable view of the government's handling of the Hanshin earthquake. Meanwhile, 14 percent said, "We do not applaud at all" and 39 percent of them said, "We do not applaud." Thus, 53 percent of those surveyed took a critical view of the government's handling of the Hanshin earthquake. More than 60 percent of the respondents in the Kinki region took a critical view. Asked to cite problems in the government's handling of the earthquake, 41 percent pointed to "the lack of the government's preparedness to launch rescue and relief work"; 29 percent of them pointed to "the government's failure to grasp the situation in quake-hit areas right after the occurrence of the Hanshin earthquake"; and 19 percent pointed to the "prime minister's failure to display his leadership in dealing with the Hanshin earthquake."

According to poll results: 21 percent of the respondents had begun preparing themselves against such a disastrous earthquake, 20 percent had already prepared themselves, and 56 percent had done nothing in the wake of the Hanshin earthquake.

Asked if they feared that such an earthquake would hit areas where they resided, 66 percent of the respondents said: "We fear" whereas 30 percent of them said, "We do not feel fear"; 77 percent of the respondents in the Tokai and Kanto regions said, "We fear"; 49 percent of the respondents in the Chukoku and Shikoku regions said, "We fear." By generation, 77 percent of the respondents in their twenties said they fear and the results of the poll showed that older people were less afraid of an earthquake than younger people.

Majority Want Crisis Management System Improved

OW3101091495 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 31 Jan 95 Morning Edition p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] The public is frustrated at the government's response to the Kobe earthquake, the worst natural disaster after World War II, according to the 30 January poll by NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN. It is demanding drastic reinforcement of the nation's crisis management system. While the public criticism is primarily aimed at the Murayama administration, our analysis of the poll result shows public's deep-rooted distrust in the administration system of the central government.

As expected, the respondents showed strong reaction to the central and local governments' response to the earthquake. Only 5.5 percent said the public sector's response to the earthquake was "satisfactory," but 14.4 percent said it was "totally unsatisfactory." Even adding the "unsatisfactory but acceptable" answer (41.3 percent), the support for the government's earthquake policy remained at only 46.8 percent.

The respondents' support for Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama reached 54.6 percent, including the "satisfactory" (6.3 percent) and "unsatisfactory but acceptable" (48.3 percent) responses. The cabinet approval rate dropped by 5.3 percentage points, compared with the figure in our previous survey in November 1994. In response to a (multiple-answer) question asking reasons for not supporting the Murayama cabinet, 52 percent said "Murayama is not a capable leader," and 33.7 percent said "Murayama is incapable of policy coordination." Thus, the earthquake adversely affected Murayama's reputation, but the respondents reacted more strongly to the earthquake policies of the central and local governments.

Under Japan's administration system, local government bodies have primary responsibility for disaster relief, but this is almost the same in most advanced nations. However, public criticism is inevitably focused on actions of the central government because functions of local governments are adversely affected when a disaster strikes. In response to a question asking what was the biggest problem observed in the earthquake, 18.4 percent noted "actions of the local government bodies"; however, 42.9 percent blamed "actions of the central government" and another 22.1 percent questioned "operations of the Self-Defense Forces [SDF]."

The Japanese public has long been showing allergic reaction to debates on emergency operation of the SDF. When asked about a ban on the SDF dispatch without request by local governments, however, 53.4 percent said "the SDF units should be authorized to independently take actions" for disaster relief even though 16.7 percent said "the existing procedures should be maintained." The overwhelming majority of 87.6 percent favored "reinforcement of the crisis management system through law revisions," which may result in limitation of personal rights under stronger government control in case of emergency.

On the other hand, the demands for upgrading the crisis management system can be regarded as nothing more than reflection of the people's frustration at the existing administration system. This is because the nation so far has not had any detailed discussions on: 1) how the SDF's independent decisions on disaster relief operations can affect the existing command system of the SDF; and 2) how powerful crisis management systems can affect people's life. This is supported by the poll result. While 82 percent call for the establishment of the ministry of "disaster preparedness," only 50.3 percent support larger tax burdens to prepare for disasters. The Kobe earthquake indicated that serious natural disasters can take place anywhere in Japan. But the poll result tells us that upgrading of the crisis management system is unlikely to get voters' support unless the government clarifies the direction of disaster prevention policies and their advantages and disadvantages for the people.

24-Hour Disaster Information System Pledged

OW3101063395 Tokyo KYODO in English 0610 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Tokyo, Jan. 31 KYODO—Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama pledged Tuesday [31 January] to work on new legislation for a round-the-clock disaster information network in Japan.

The government "must urgently embark on" establishing a round-the-clock system at the premier's official residence, and improving information gathering and transmission networks, Murayama said during a House of Representatives Budget Committee session.

He made the remarks on the heels of public outcries against the government's delayed reaction to the Jan. 17 earthquake, which pounded the major port city of Kobe and adjacent areas, killing more than 5,000 people and injured more than 26,000.

Murayama stressed that the basic law for disaster management needs to be reviewed "in every respect," particularly referring to revisions to the information system among the premier's official residence, the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) and local governments.

"We would like to review the law to see if there are any shortcomings in the system for transmitting information," he said.

Answering separately in the committee session, Chief Cabinet Secretary Kozo Igarashi said a project team will be set up to quickly decide on law revisions.

Adding to Murayama's comments, Igarashi stressed the need to design a system for gathering overall information at the premier's residence, including pictures taken from planes and helicopters.

Home Affairs Minister Hiromu Nonaka told reporters that the premier's residence should serve as the information center instead of establishing a new body to gather disaster data.

"The premier's residence should coordinate information with the police, fire departments and the Self-Defense Forces functioning," Nonaka said. [passage omitted]

DA, SDF To Improve Disaster Relief System

OW3001095195 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 30 Jan 95 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The Defense Agency [DA] and the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] have started to review their current system and equipment with the aim of establishing a disaster-relief system that can quickly deal with a large-scale disaster. There is a chorus of criticism against the SDF's delay in responding to the situation caused by the great Hanshin earthquake [17 January], saying "the SDF should deal with the disaster with more mobility." With such criticism in mind, the DA and the SDF will grope for an overall system of quickly coping with sudden, unforeseen accidents. A plan will be studied to achieve the smooth mobilization of SDF members via helicopter to a disaster-stricken area and to deploy a large number of Ground SDF [GSDF] members gathered from SDF troops stationed outside a disaster-stricken area. In addition, there is an idea about setting up an "emergency force," with the aim of increasing mobility. Study will also be given to the possible introduction of image transmitting equipment that can transfer information directly. The DA plans to proceed with a review of the current system while keeping an eye on Diet interpellations.

The SDF is formed and its equipment is purchased based on the principle of "defending our nation against direct or indirect invasion." However, there is no equipment exclusively for disaster relief purposes. When a disaster happens, the SDF uses equipment purchased for defense purposes that can also be used for disaster relief purposes, such as night vision equipment—currently being used to monitor the volcanic activities of Mt. Unzen.

Since the SDF force's formation was made from a standpoint of dealing with a possible growing crisis, the deployment of troops is not appropriate for making a quick response to such unforeseen emergency cases as a great earthquake.

While reviewing its plan to dispatch disaster relief troops in preparation for possible earthquakes in the south Kanto area and the Tokai area, the DA and the SDF plan to beef up their liaison and cooperative system with each local government. Moreover, with the aim of strengthening the system of transporting SDF members to a disaster-stricken area via helicopter, they plan to carry out research work in cooperation with each local government to find a site to be used as a heliport.

From a mid-to-long term point of view, it is anticipated that GSDF units deployed in local areas could themselves be damaged seriously. Therefore, the DA and the SDF will be required to dispatch the GSDF deployed in Tohoku area when a severe earthquake happens in the south Kanto area. To increase the SDF's mobility, there is an idea to set up an "emergency force" modeled after the U.S. Marine Corps, which is established for emergency purposes, or to establish within the SDF a staff officers' organ which has the authority to coordinate the dispatch of SDF troops.

As for improving equipment, study will be given to the possible placing of image transmitting equipment in scout helicopters to enable the gathering of visual information from the beginning stage of disaster relief activities. There is also an idea to build a "hospital ship" equipped with medical appliances and facilities needed for first-aid treatment and of making use of it for UN peacekeeping operations (PKO) purposes.

Regarding the idea of creating a disaster relief force proposed by the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], a prevailing view within the DA and the SDF is that "it is unclear how the relief force would operate during peacetime, and it is more realistic to correct the SDF's current training and operation system." As for the possibility of the SDF's taking an overall role in disaster relief activities, there is a view within the DA and the SDF pointing out that there is a legal problem, and saying "it is impossible unless the number of SDF members increases by three times. The DA and the SDF plan to proceed with such internal study and attach its proposal to the ruling coalition's study report on disaster relief and crisis management.

Quake Damage Expected To Reduce Tax Revenues

OW3101022995 Tokyo KYODO in English 0204 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Jan. 31 KYODO—Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura said Tuesday [31 January] the government may have to further cut its estimate of tax revenue for fiscal 1994 ending March 31 due to the Jan. 17 earthquake in western Japan.

Takemura said at a press conference after a regular cabinet meeting, "quake damage cannot but have a negative effect on tax revenues," though the government has already once cut its estimate, in a supplementary budget compiled late last month.

Takemura stopped short of saying that deficit-covering bonds to finance quake relief measures will be issued, but said there are emergency measures for which construction bonds cannot be used.

Takemura went on to say Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's cabinet will start work to compile a second supplementary budget for the current business year as soon as possible after gauging the scale of damage caused by the quake in the Kobe area.

The top finance official, however, did not elaborate to specify when the second extra budget is to be compiled or submitted to the Diet.

"It is essential to define borders between deficit-financing and construction bonds to finance reconstruction of quake-hit areas," Takemura said, noting his ministry has a basic policy of not issuing deficit-financing bonds.

The Finance Ministry Said Takemura is to leave Tokyo on Feb. 3 to attend the weekend meeting of finance ministers and central bankers in Toronto.

Quake Reconstruction To Benefit Economy

OW3101085995 Tokyo KYODO in English 0817 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Jan. 31 KYODO--Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Yasuo Matsushita indicated Tuesday [31 January] that reconstruction work in the earthquake-ravaged region of Kobe and its vicinity is likely to help stimulate the Japanese economy in the medium and long terms.

Answering questions before the House of Representatives Budget Committee, Matsushita said the quake has disrupted distribution of goods and will inevitably slow down production in the affected area.

On the other hand, the Japanese economy is likely to benefit from new demand to be created by reconstruction work, he said.

Editorial Examines Economic Impact of Earthquake

952A0319A Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 24 Jan 95 p 5

[Editorial: "Earthquake Will Not Destroy Japanese Economy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As the Osaka-Kobe earthquake has unanticipated effects, the securities markets reflect intensifying fear over the future of the Japanese economy.

Prices on the Tokyo Stock Exchange on the first day of trading in the week recorded a broad decline, while the yen sold off on the foreign exchange markets. Such phenomena reflected the withdrawal of capital from Japan by foreign investors attempting to escape the potential effects of the earthquake on the Japanese economy.

Damage suffered as a result of the earthquake is unmistakably widespread. However, it would be excessively pessimistic to assume that the Japanese economy will suffer from a declining trend from that fact alone.

A matter of concern at this juncture is that insecurity about the market may cause major swings in stock prices and yen values, and have an adverse effect on the real economy. The government should placate such insecurity by not holding back on spending for earthquake recovery projects and by exerting maximum effort in restoring economic activity to normal.

The monetary impact of the earthquake on the Japanese economy is unknown at this time. However, if reference were to be made to past domestic and foreign earthquakes, an estimate based on 1 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) would peg the losses at about 5 trillion yen.

According to private-sector research agencies, losses from the earthquake are estimated at between 4-8 trillion yen. The GDP will be depressed by a maximum of 1.9 percent in the January-March quarter, but, for the mid-term, reconstruction demand is expected to boost the economy by an estimated 2.9 percent.

All private-sector research agencies predict a negative impact on the Japanese economy for the short term, but agree that the mid- and long-term outlook calls for a positive impact because of reconstruction demand in the area of construction materials, housing-related materials, and durable consumer goods. Even last year's Los Angeles earthquake caused damages totaling 3 trillion yen. However, reconstruction demand had the effect of boosting the U.S. economy.

The depressing effect on production activity in the Osaka-Kobe regional economy is inestimable, because of the destruction of manufacturing facilities in quake-stricken areas, destruction of buildings, and paralysis of the distribution system.

The Osaka-Kobe area serves as a major artery of the distribution system linking east and west Japan. The destruction of that artery has affected nationwide economic activity beyond the quake-stricken area.

Additionally, corporations in the Kansai region, which have close economic ties with Asian countries, were affected and the closure of trade port functions of Kobe harbor has adversely affected manufacturing activity in Malaysia and South Korea.

One factor in the suspension of production coming into play here is the just-in-time delivery systems wherein on-hand inventories are held at minimal levels. The earthquake served to surface yet another weakness of materiel distribution systems dedicated to efficiency. Methods for maintaining stable production during emergencies is an issue to be considered by corporate executives.

Reconstruction programs of the central and local governments should be designed to aid industry in its efforts to rebuild.

Roads, bridges, railways, and harbors are public facilities indispensable for maintaining consumer and corporate activities. Not only is quick reconstruction desirable for individual residents and corporations, but normalization of economic activity will help to replenish tax coffers.

We would first like to see the early completion of work and approval of the second supplemental budget for fiscal year 1994 to provide a conduit to funnel necessary funding into the quake areas. Fiscal resources can be created through the issuance of government construction bonds.

Basically, fiscal effort should not be limited to reconstruction funding, but extended to a supplemental budget for fiscal year 1995 providing for resources to design quake-resistant urban areas.

Provisions are indispensable for general financial aid in the area of low-cost loans for rebuilding manufacturing facilities of private-sector firms and building private-sector housing.

Of utmost importance is the energy and creativity of corporate executives. We can probably eliminate uncertainty concerning the future by launching bold fiscal and financial plans in support of such efforts.

* Persistence of Bureaucrats in Molding Systems

952B0073A Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 29 Nov 94 p 7

[Article by Masumi Ishikawa, editorial staff writer: "Accomplish 'Ministry's Will': Bureaucrats Who Push Through Their Will Even if They Have To Spend Time"]

[FBIS Translated Text] I hear that Murayama cabinet is a "clear out the backlog" cabinet. In the era of Liberal Democratic Party governments, "clear out the backlog" referred to a cabinet that collected and allowed to join the cabinet those undistinguished Diet members, who despite their repeated victories in election, were having difficulty getting into a cabinet. This time it means wanting to approve as laws any number of policies inherited from the previous government. When governments change, jargon also changes.

On the 21st [November 1994], the single-seat electoral redistricting law passed, and reform of the election system was completed. On the 25th, laws related to tax system reform passed by which it is certain that the consumption tax will be raised to 5 percent beginning in FY97.

"Clearing Out" Important Bills

If we go back a bit further, on 2 November, after the work of 14 years, revision of pension-related laws was also completed which includes such things as delaying the age to 65 at which to begin payment of the full amount of welfare pensions and mutual aid pensions. Every one of them is an important bill which was debated for a long time. Indeed, viewed from the government it is no doubt "clearing out a backlog."

That is remarkable. Each one is something which bureaucrats who administer it have tried their utmost to do. The politicians who were involved in the respective fields also probably have a feeling of satisfaction. But their sense of attainment must differ widely from that of the bureaucrats. Of course, they would not give a toast to each other with beer at all over Kasumigaseki, but I can almost hear the sound of people clinking glasses with each other while exchanging smiles. In the ASAHI SHIMBUN of 2 February 1947, there appears an article in which Etsujiro Uehara, who had been appointed Minister for Home Affairs in a reshuffling of the Yoshida cabinet, said the following at a press conference. "I think that a single-ballot, single-seat election district system is most ideal from the principle of establishment and stability of party politics based on the doctrine of two large political parties. Division into small parties impedes the development of democracy. However, since this kind of setup in which we arrive there at one leap is not possible right away, I want first to adopt a single-ballot medium electoral district system," (I revised the punctuation and some of the particles in the original text).

That "ideal" was achieved after 47 years. Of course there are differences in the political intentions of the respective times in regard to the attempt to introduce a single-seat electoral district system which was relayed to the Hatoyama cabinet and the Tanaka cabinet, and then to the Kaifu, Miyazawa, Hosokawa, Hata, and Murayama cabinets. In addition to politicians, the "knowledgeable persons" who debated in councils also had their ideas. However, the one which, as the "executive office" of those politicians and knowlegeable persons, directed the progress and came up with clever ideas was the Ministry for Home Affairs from beginning to end.

Inheriting an Atmosphere

Recently, when I spoke with Masaharu Gotoda, chairman of the Research Commission on Basic Problems of Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], who served as chairman of the LDP Committee on Political Reform five years ago, about a plan of some magazine, I brought up this talk of Uehara's and said that ultimately one senses the strength of the consistent will of the home affairs bureaucrats. Gotoda smiled and said: "At that time I was in the Local Affairs Bureau (forerunner of the Ministry of Home Affairs)." He had no counter argument. It is said that the department head who was his direct superior at that time was chairman of the eighth Election System Inquiry Commission, Yosoji Kobayashi (chairman of YOMIURI SHIMBUN) who made the report on the current proportional system.

I do not want to say that it is because there exists this kind of personal tie. I feel that it is not the exploit of a specific person, but rather it is the atmosphere of the "will" of that entire government office, so to speak, is inherited by the younger generation of staff and flowes continuously and accomplishes the matter.

With tax reform also, it seems to me that at least the strong will of the Ministry of Finance has been consistent for 15 years since 1979 when it caused Prime Minister Ohira to talk about the idea of "a general consumption tax." I have also been told since a long time ago about the idea, "delaying the age for paying pensions to 65," of the Ministry of Health and Welfaresince.

I will not inquire here into the merits and demerits of the ideas and results. However, whenever bureaucrats want to do something, they always accomplish it without fail; they use politicians, appeal to public opinion, or spend time to accomplish their goal. There is something in that which transcends the dimension such as bureaucratic leadership or "bureaucracy above party" in the short term, something which makes me think that this, indeed, is real power.

Some day the consumption tax will probably be 7 percent, 8 percent, and 10 percent. The "mechanical trial balance" that the Ministry of Finance showed this year to the government's Research Commission on Tax System is proclaiming that. Furthermore, there is no doubt that acquisition of permanent membership in the UN Security Council, the unconcealed "will" of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, would also become a reality some day.

Lately I have fallen into mental attitude of a defeatist.

MITI's View on Changing Special Corporations

OW3001115695 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 28 Jan 95 Morning Edition p 11

[Unattributed article: "Battle over Special Corporation Issue; Reformist MITI Minister Aware of Move To Take Teeth out of His Program, Will Keep Mum for Now"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI], which has at its top the big-shot politician Ryutaro Hashimoto, there is no change—even after the earthquake hit the Hanshin area—in its officials' position of wanting to relegate everything to the political judgment of the minister. One official said: "Once the minister makes his decision, there will be ways [to implement it]. After all, integration and abolition [of special status corporations] do not mean that people will really lose their heads. Sure, there will be ways."

Hashimoto was chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party's [LDP] Research Commission on Public Administration and Finances around the time the Provisional Administrative Research Commission of 1981 was active. He calls himself an "administrative reformer," and is now performing the work of adjusting the views of the people of his party on the privatization of three state-owned corporations, including the National Railways Corporation. The ministry is waiting for the minister to make his decision, and has not made an announcement on which corporations will be integrated or abolished.

In a hearing conducted by the chief cabinet secretary and the Management and Coordination Agency director-general on 27 December, MITI Minister Hashimoto asked about the government plan for streamlining and integrating the special status corporations: "Is this just to juggle the numbers around, or is it done to gain real financial merits? I would like the cabinet to make its policy clear." Apparently, the minister was cautious. Having sensed that the administrative reform is likely to turn out to be one that will not really achieve much drastic reform, he seemed to be thinking that announcing the names of corporations involved at this stage is unwise as bureaucrats would not cooperate with him.

A dietman from the ruling camp—in response to a remark by a MITI official—said: "This (integration) can be done as easily as you can bind papers with a stapler. Your jobs will not go away." There was no doubt he had juggling the numbers in mind.

MITI is now watching what kind of card Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura will play. Takemura, head of New Party Sakigake [Harbinger], is an advocate of the integration and aboliton of the special corporations, and even presented to the government his own plan on this. A middle-class MITI official said: "If all that the Finance Ministry does is abolish the monpolized sale of salt, the overall administrative reform program this time will end up being one with very little substance."

Of a total of 13 corporations under MITI's control now, the ones considered likely candidates [for streamlining or integration] are the New Energy and Industrial Development Organization (NEDO) and the Coal Mine Damage Corporation. The NEDO's primay job is to develop oil-substituting energy resources, but it is also involved in modernizing mines as well as in working out measures to help people leaving the mines. The organization has about 840 personnel. The Coal Mine Damage Corporation, which handles problems of land subsidence and other mine-related damages plus programs for reconstruction from such damages, has about 360 personnel.

The functions of the Coal Mine Damage Corporation to redress damages in mines are set to end in 2001, and thus the rationale for the corporation's existence will, in fact, cease to exist at that time. If this corporation is merged with the NEDO, that will mean that the personnel of the corporation will retain their jobs and be allowed to hold on them until retirement. A middle-ranking ministry official admitted: "This will go against the purpose of administrative reform, but still will make it look as if something has been done in terms of numbers." MITI Minister Hashimoto also said: "I am aware that the number of special corporations does have a political meaning."

It looks like MITI will watch what other ministries will do and will wait until the last moment before it plays its own "card."

North Korea

IAEA Accused of Interfering in Internal Affairs

SK3101051395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0456 GMT 31 Jan 95

["Some Officials of IAEA Must Not Interfere in Nation's Internal Affairs "—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, January 31 (KCNA)—Some individual officials of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) must refrain from making rash utterances, interfering in the nation's internal affairs, urged a spokesman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland in a press statement on January 30.

According to a report, at a time when many people were opposing the building of a nuclear waste dump on Kulop Islet, Ongjin County, Kyonggi Province, South Korea, Donald Shere (transcribed from Korean), chief of the nuclear waste management of the IAEA, held a press conference in Seoul, in which he said the designation of Kulop Islet as a nuclear waste dump by the South Korean authorities is a "reasonable decision" and "recommended them to promote it as planned".

The South Korean puppets are now trying to justify their crimes, noisily crying as if they received a "revelation" of god in what an individual official of the IAEA said, the statement said, and noted:

It is impudent of a person who is not directly interested in such an important matter as the designation of a nuclear waste dump and is not a party concerned to talk about "reasonableness" or "recommendation". What is worse is the flunkeyist, treacherous act of the Kim Yong-sam group who regards a foreigner's "admonition" as a "law", putting down the will of the people at the point of bayonet.

To build a nuclear waste dump on Kulop Islet is an unpardonable crime which will reduce the West Sea of Korea to a sea of death, gravely threaten the lives of the people in the coastal areas of South Korea and the north, destroy environment and aggravate the North-South confrontation.

The snobbish word of an official of the IAEA may work on Kim Yong-sam, the traitor who lives without his own principle, but never work on the Korean people who regard national independence as life and soul.

We can never remain an onlooker to the South Korean puppets' anti-national, provocative moves for building a nuclear waste dump on Kulop Islet, which will create an irretrievable danger to the existence of the whole nation and further aggravate the North-South confrontation.

The South Korean puppets must clearly see our decisive stand and will and unconditionally withdraw their criminal plan to build the nuclear waste dump.

Some individual officials of the IAEA must clearly know the specific condition of Korea which remains divided and the demands of the Korean nation and refrain from interfering in the nation's internal affairs with rash words.

U.S. Delegation on Liaison Office Talks Arrives

SK3101133495 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1305 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A U.S. State Department delegation arrived in Pyongyang by airplane on 31 January to work for the establishment of a liaison office in compliance with the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework.

KCNA Reports on Arrival

SK3101150795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1459 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, January 31 (KCNA)—A delegation of the U.S. State Department arrived here today to discuss the opening of liaison offices under the DPRK-U.S. framework agreement.

The consular issues and most technical issues which had remained unsolved as regards the opening of liaison offices were resolved in the negotiations held in Washington last year.

In the negotiations the two sides agreed to send their respective teams of experts to each other's capital in early 1995 to survey appropriate sites for liaison offices.

ROK Continues With DMZ 'Military Provocation'

SK3101043695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0415 GMT 31 Jan 95

["Ceaseless Military Provocations in DMZ"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, January 31 (KCNA)—The South Korean puppets have committed one military provocation after another in the Demilitarized Zone against the northern half of the country, military sources said.

On Saturday and Sunday they brought 90 mm recoilless guns, 12.7 mm machine guns, 40 odd military vehicles and hundreds of bandits into the South side area of the DMZ in the central and western sectors of the front and staged war games.

They illegally introduced a total of 8,600 armed bandits, 20 heavy weapons and 3,400 military vehicles into the DMZ this month.

This vividly shows how amuck the Kim Yong-sam fascist clique is running from the beginning of the new year to get the situation in the DMZ strained.

ROK Military Officials' Visit to Front Decried

SK3101000895 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1222 GMT 26 Jan 95

[Commentary by Yun Pyong-son: "Reckless Acts of Civilian Warmongers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reports, the so-called puppet air force chief of staff visited the Air Force troops in the frontline on 23 January and made militant and absurd remarks demanding thorough air alertness and perfect air defensive posture. At the same time, the 52d division of the puppet army also held a training course for reserve commanding officers for 1995. This is another reckless war remark and act of the civilian warmongers.

The civilian warmongers' warmanic acts have reached a more dangerous stage this year. Heads of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, including the puppet defense minister and chairman of the chief of staff, have unanimously talked about the full military preparation posture as they begin their new year's operations. Also, the puppet defense minister has issued a special order in his so-called commanding letter No. 1, asking the Army to do its best in preparation for unexpected situations.

Every day, the rascals are also conducting the various kinds of an adventurous war exercises aimed at attacking us in the skies, land, and sea. They have constantly committed a military provocation in the DMZ in the Military Demarcation Line, seriously irritating us. Also, the civilian rulers are more madly than ever before running about reinforcing arms by appropriating 11.744 billion won for this year's defense budget and by largely introducing modern military equipment, including F-16 fighters. This fact shows how mad the civilian rulers are to lead the Korean peninsula to the situation of a war and confrontation this year, running counter to the trends of the times.

As everyone knows, now the trend of relaxation is being prevailed throughout the Korean peninsula as a result of the implementation of the DPRK-U.S. framework agreement. The entire 70 million countrymen's warm aspiration for reunification is being vigorously raised to make this year, a year marking the 50th anniversary of the national liberation, as the year of reunification.

At this time, the South Korean civilian warmongers are embarking upon the road to war, more desperately sticking to the war plots than ever before. This is an unforgivable challenging act against the trend of times and the aspiration of the nation, as well as an intentional disturbing act to destroy peace and security on Korea and the rest of Asia.

The ambition by the civilian rulers, who aspire for the reunification through a system and for the reunification through a victory over communism, is constantly pursuing confrontation and war. They are more viciously sticking to the war plot this year. This is related to the serious crisis they are facing at home and abroad.

The fabricated so-called reform policy and the civilian rule by the Kim Yong-sam regime were already in shambles a long time ago. All of their foreign policies, which have been forged in a nation- selling manner, have come to naught. Their confrontation lean-to- one-side policy [taegyol ilbyondo chongchaek] against us has only further increased their isolation from their home and abroad.

Because of the Kim Yong-sam clique's reactionary rule, tax thieves are rampant throughout South Korea, and large-scale accidents leading people to death, including the collapse of the Songsu Bridge, are occurring in succession. Also, various kinds of vicious incidents, including the murder incident by the Chijon faction, are taking place one after another. Thereby, the social devils have been extreme.

Furthermore, because of the sharp power struggle and friction [alryok] in the political circles in recent days, political unrest, disorder, and stagnation have increased in society with each passing day. In short, today, the South Korean situation is experiencing an overall crisis in which it may collapse at any time, like the Songsu Bridge.

The civilian rulers are desperately sticking to the war plots in order to escape from such a crisis. By so doing, they are making an attempt to find out their way to escape from their serious crisis, diverting everywhere the public opinion at home and abroad. Needless to say, the puppet air force chief of staff's visit to the frontline and the puppet army 52d division's act of holding the training course for the 1995 reserve commanding officers were committed as a part of carrying on such war plots. Furthermore, such war plots are nothing but a clumsy and foolish act of going into a fire with grass.

Despite our repeated warnings, if the civilian warmongers continue to embark upon the road of confrontation and war, running counter to the trend of times, their destiny is doomed to a shameful destruction.

Kim Yong-sam's Attempt To Visit Cemetery Viewed

SK3101050495 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0448 GMT 31 Jan 95

["Does Kim Yong-sam Have Face To Appear in Kwangju?"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, January 31 (KCNA)—The traitor Kim Yong-sam appeared in Kwangju a few days ago and prattled that he planned to visit the May 18 cemetery in Mangwol-tong to honor the memory of the victims of the Kwangju popular uprising but cancelled it because of possible demonstrations of students. Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today says: The traitor Kim Yong- sam saved traitors Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u, the very ones who ruthlessly killed Kwangju people in their struggle for independence, democracy and reunification in May 1980 and staged the December 12 military coup. His visit to Kwangju itself is a challenge to the people there and the pro-reunification, democratic forces of South Korea. And what he said is nonsense of a fellow who feels his feet asleep in defending the military dictatorial forces and challenging the people's desire for independence, democracy and reunification.

During the two years of his office, the traitor Kim Yong-sam has antagonized and suppressed the students and people in the Kwangju- South Cholla provincial area who voted against him in the last "presidential election" and have taken the lead in the patriotic movement for independence, democracy and reunification.

The traitor Kim Yong-sam did not mean what he said over the "visit" to the cemetery in Mangwol-tong. When he said he could not "visit" to it because of "demonstrations of students", he revealed a sinister intention to further intensify the suppression of the students in the Kwangju- South Cholla provincial area.

The students and people in this area will wage a more stubborn struggle against Kim Yong-sam, together with the forces for independence, democracy and reunification across South Korea.

ROK Students Block Visit

SK2901110295 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1003 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, January 29 (KCNA)—The Kwangju-South Cholla Provincial Federation of General Student Councils (Namchongnyon) of South Korea on January 27 blocked the visit of the traitor Kim Yong-sam to the May 18 cemetery in Mangwol- tong where the fighters of the Kwangju uprising are buried, a Seoul- based radio reported.

When the traitor Kim Yong-sam who came to Kwangju was going to the cemetery the students affiliated with Namchongnyon declared they would check the traitor's visit to the cemetery through demonstration.

The traitor, upset by the fighting spirit of the students, cancelled his planned visit.

ROK Debtor Nation Due to 'Treacherous Policy'

SK3001053095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0521 GMT 30 Jan 95

["Consequences of Treacherous Policy"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, January 30 (KCNA)—South Korean foreign debts had reached 52 billion dollars as of June last year, according to a report on foreign debts of different countries made public by the Bank for International Settlements recently. And a report of the Economic Cooperation Organisation said South Korea's foreign debts ran into 67 billion dollars last year.

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today says South Korea has been reduced to one of the world's biggest debtors entirely because of the traitor Kim Yong-sam's ignorance and treacherous policy.

The analyst says:

Kim Yong-sam has introduced a large amount of loans and used them not for the recovery of the bankrupt economy but for "sanctions" against the fellow countrymen in the North with the backing of outside forces, and for anti-communist fascistization, arms buildup and other war preparations. This resulted in increasing South Korea's foreign debts, far from repaying them.

The traitor Kim Yong-sam, instead of admitting the grave consequences entailed by his treacherous policy and blaming himself for them, is paying lip service to "economic stability and growth" and advertising "globalization" to leave the South Korean economy at the mercy of the avaricious international capital lock, stock, and barrel.

With nothing can the Kim Yong-sam group evade the responsibility for its crime in turning South Korea into one of the world's biggest debtors and reducing all the South Korean people to debt slaves.

'Unconverted' Prisoner Supports Reunification

SK3001103595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1002 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, January 30 (KCNA)—The South Korean paper SAENURI SINMUN January 21 carried an account of the interview of Ham Se-hwan, 64, an unconverted long-term prisoner, with a journalist of the paper.

The paper quoted him as saying that he is convinced that, at a time when enthusiasm for national reunification is running higher, the repatriation of the unconverted long-term prisoners, will open a short-cut for peaceful reunification.

He rejected the impudent insistence of the puppet authorities that he cannot be repatriated for the reason that he could not but take, against his will, the "resident registration card" of South Korea to make a living, though he, a prisoner of war, should have been sent back to the northern half of Korea in accordance with the Geneva convention.

"I refused to write the 'conversion paper' forced by the authorities, because it means abandoning my political integrity," he said, reiterating the determination to invest all his efforts for reunification.

Pomminnyon Chairman Urges Reunification

SK3101062095 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1113 GMT 26 Jan 95

[Report by Paek In-chun, chairman of the North side headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification, Pomminnyon, at the general meeting of the Central Committee of Pomminnyon's North side headquarters held in Pyongyang on 26 January—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] All the people across the country are creating unprecedented miracles and feats on all fronts of the revolution and construction from the first day of the new year by upholding the fatherly leader's lifetime will and by following the leadership of General

Kim Chong-il, the great leader [yongdoja] of our party and people. Amid these solemn circumstances, we open a general meeting of the Central Committee on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of creation of Pomminnyon's North side headquarters.

Greeting this significant day, we cannot repress the sense of ardent yearning for the fatherly leader who, regarding the issue of national reunification as the most important task of the nation, devoted his tireless and sleepless efforts and pains to the nation's reunification.

Not forgetting for even a moment, from the first day of the nation's division after the liberation, the pains and misfortune of division that our people suffered, the great leader [suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song made every effort to give national reunification as a gift to our people and opened the bright future for national unity and reunification each time and each stage.

Because there was the fatherly leader who personally shouldered the destiny of the nation and the people, the most just, fair, and reasonable principle, program, and method were provided. Because of the endlessly broad and benevolent bosom of the leader [suryongnim], like that of the sun, a number of people who traversed the road of treachery by betraying the nation and people in the past, entered the road of patriotism for national unity and reunification.

Indeed, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was a great man of the great men whom our people met for the first time in the 5,000-year long history of the nation and held in high esteem, and was the great father of the nation who enjoyed boundless respect and trust from all of the 70 million fellow countrymen.

Last year, the fatherly leader, who reached an advanced age of 80, provided historic DPRK-U.S. negotiations and rescued our people from the touch-and-go danger of war. Until the last moment of his great heart's beating, he repeated and repeated again his effort to open a turning point for national reunification at the van of the struggle for national unity.

Indeed, the effort and pains and immortal precious achievements made by the great leader [suryongnim] for national reunification—the ardent desire of all fellow countrymen—will be brilliant forever together with the history of our nation which will be prosperous forever. [applause]

Last year our people carried out persistent struggle under the banner of the 10-point program of the great national unity of the whole country for the country's reunification by upholding General Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great leader [yongdoja] of the nation, along the wide road to reunification unfolded by the great leader [suryongnim]. Thus, we made the whole land of the nation and hearts of all fellow countrymen overflow with fierce spirit of national independence and great unity.

We opened a general meeting of the Central Committee early last year and discussed and decided on the general goal of the movement and direction of the work of the year. Through by-election of members of the Central Committee of the North-side headquarters, we gave priority to the work of adjusting and intensifying the organization.

In addition, we organized lecture meetings of the Presidium and Central Committee on many occasions throughout the year in order to enhance the role and enthusiasm for work of functionaries who will lead the reunification movement, and thus paid due attention to upgrading their political quality.

Last year we held symposiums on the great national unity on the occasion of the first year of the publication of the 10-point program of the great national unity of the whole country by the great leader, and actively carried out various forms of activities, including concerts of compatriots at home and abroad for great national unity. We proposed and realized a telephone conference of compatriots in the North, the South, and overseas and cochairmen of the Presidium of Pomminnyon in the face of repeated persistent and atrocious obstructive moves of the antireunification and separatist forces. Thus, we reached a joint agreement on holding the fifth pannational rally as a common rally of the nation.

The fifth pannational rally held on the 15 August national liberation anniversary according to the agreement reached during the meeting of cochairmen of the Presidium of Pomminnyon last year was an important occasion which registered a great advance in achieving the great leader's [suryongnim] idea for great national unity.

On the occasion of the national liberation anniversary last year, pannational rallies were held successfully in South Korea and overseas.

Last year, we persistently carried out the struggle to implement the joint resolution adopted at the fifth pannational rally under the solidarity with Pomminnyon organizations in the South side and overseas by upholding the great leader's [suryongnim] lifetime will on achieving reunification in the nineties with united strength of the whole country.

Through last year's Pomminnyon movement and persistent struggle for national independence and national unity, we could attain many successes and precious experience. One of the successes was that we demonstrated to the entire world the unswerving reunification will of the entire country to achieve national reunification in the nineties at any cost by holding aloft the fatherly leader's will for reunification and under the wise leadership of General Kim Chong-il, the great leader [yongdoja] of the chuche cause, through great unity of the whole country. Another success was that in the course of carrying out joint reunification movements, including the fifth pannational rally, Pomminnyon organizations in the North, the South, and overseas, were further strengthened under solidarity with each other, and the determination and zeal of the people from all walks of life were enhanced. Thus, we laid a firm foundation for carrying out the reunification movement on a nationwide scale by realizing solidarity and joint struggle with a wide range of reunification movement organizations.

Another important achievement was that through last year's struggle, we exposed the true color of antireunification separatist forces who are going counter to history and to the nation's aspiration, and we made all compatriots at home and abroad cherish firm confidence that if they carry to accomplishment the chuche-based reunification policies elucidated by the great leader [suryongnim] including the line of great national unity of the whole country, national reunification will be achieved without fail, no matter how frantically the antireunification separatist forces may run amok.

Today we can proudly say that through persistent struggle since its formation, Pomminnyon not only firmly safeguarded its organizations without wavering even in the midst of ceaseless and continuous maneuvers of antireunification forces to break up and destroy Pomminnyon, but also firmly united a broad range of masses of compatriots under the banner of great national unity. Thus, Pomminnyon has been strengthened and developed into a mightier organization with firm foundation to vigorously lead the struggle for national unity and national reunification. [applause]

Dear people, this year, 1995, is the historic year in which the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the country falls and half a century since our nation was divided.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: As you, people, unanimously resolved during the pannational rally, we must achieve the historic cause of national reunification in the nineties without fail.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has pointed out: I hope that by turning their sorrow of having lost the respected leader into a thousand times more powerful might and courage, all the people will more powerfully struggle to brilliantly carry to accomplishment the chuche revolutionary cause, to which the leader [suryongnim] devoted his efforts and pains until the last moment of his life.

The respected and beloved General Kim Chong-il, who possesses brilliant wisdom and keen insight, blew away at once the pressure by the imperialist united forces surrounding the so-called nuclear issue through the sagacious strategy of turning misfortunes into a blessing, and made it possible to adopt the historic DPRK-U.S. agreement. Thus, he defended the country's peace and security, elucidated the nation's dignity, and opened a favorable prospect in the fatherland's reunification.

The whole world is highly looking up at and praising the respected and beloved general who possesses peerless courage and iron-like will and who is manifesting throughout the world the dignity of our nation—the Kim Il-song nation. The whole world is also looking at our people who are gifted with the good fortune of having the leader—the greatest happiness among happiness—with admiration and envy.

People from all walks of life in the North, South, and overseas who are the main force of the fatherland's reunification, are upholding the 10-point program of great national unity for the fatherland's reunification put forth by the great leader, and are all the more vigorously carrying out the patriotic struggle for national unity and the fatherland's reunification with each passing day transcending all differences of religion, party faction, position, and assets.

At the joint Secretariat of Pomminnyon on 1 January, to elucidate 1995 as the year of the great march to welcome reunification and letting the people know that it is the first year for the opening of the era of reunification, an appeal was announced for the whole nation to vigorously step forward by following the banner of great national unity.

In particular, at the combined meeting of the Republic's political parties and organizations which was established this time, a new important initiative was put forth on jointly celebrating the 50th anniversary of the fatherland's liberation by each party, each faction, and each fellow countrymen from all walks of life of the North, South, and overseas who desire the fatherland's reunification to gather at one place on 15 August this year, and that a grand national conference be held and a definite decision be made on the method for the fatherland's reunification here. This was enthusiastically presented to the political parties, organizations, and fellow countrymen from all walks of life at home and abroad to respond to this.

This kind of proposal and appeal are just initiatives reflecting our nation's will and demand for reunification. This is an active and constructive proposal to open a new phase in the nation's unity and the fatherland's reunification under the current situation.

We must put an end as soon as possible to the tragedy of the nation's division which is being continued for half a century, and are enthusiastically supporting and welcoming these initiatives stemming from the single desire to firmly open the wide road for the fatherland's reunification. [applause]

Reunification in the nineties is the fatherly leader's warm lifetime teaching, and trying to make this year the year of reunification of the nineties and a brilliant year opening an epoch-making phase is an iron-like will of the respected and beloved General Kim Chong-il—our nation's great leader [yongdoja].

We must deeply bear in our hearts the fatherly leader's lifetime teaching for reunification which is to elucidate the nineties as the year for the fatherland's reunification and the respected and beloved Supreme Commander General Kim Chong-il's will for reunification. Also, in accordance with the prevailing subjective and objective situation, we must unite strength with all the reunification and patriotic forces at home and abroad to daringly carry out this year's reunification movement.

In particular, according to the initiative of the combined meeting of the Republic's political parties and organizations, we must provide a grand reunification festival in which the North, South, and overseas are participating on 15 August of this year which is the day of the 50th anniversary of the fatherland's liberation, and consult and make a definite decision on the method for the fatherland's reunification based on the three principles of self-dependence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity so that the ultimate goal is to open an epoch-making phase in achieving reunification in the nineties to vigorously carry out the Pomminnyon movement.

To achieve this we must first of all concentrate all strength on providing a broad arena for dialogue this year in which people from all walks of life of the North, South, and overseas are participating to provide a firm guarantee in realizing reunification through the confederal system. Along with providing a broad arena for dialogue this year in which people from all walks of life of the North, South, and overseas are participating, we must actively realize opportunities for civilian-level various contacts and dialogue to all the more consolidate the nation's reconciliation and unity.

Secondly, we must abolish all laws that are barriers in realizing this year's great national unity and the fatherland's reunification and eliminate antireunification splittist forces challenging reunification. By doing so, we must continue to carry out a vigorous struggle to open a favorable phase in the fatherland's reunification.

The National Security Law—the antihumanity, reactionary, and antihistorical, fascist, evil law labeling fellow countrymen as the enemy—is the greatest obstacle to the realization of the country's reunification. Therefore, the fact that this fascist, evil law still exists today when reunification is about to be achieved in the nineties, is far from tolerable from the national point of view as well as in view of the changing trend of the times.

The South Korean ruling bunch, babbling about national reconciliation and harmony, is applying the National Security Law more viciously than its preceding military dictators did, further encouraging hostility and confrontation within the nation, labeling all reunification movements in South Korea, including the pannational rally, as enemy-benefiting acts, recklessly suppressing the patriotic figures involved in them.

When even the political leaders of some countries, which had hostile relations with us, were expressing deep condolences on the fatherly leader's abrupt passing away, the Kim Yong-sam ring applied outright the so-called National Security Law and committed without hesitation the unpardonable antinational and antihumanity barbarous act of handcuffing the South Korean people who expressed condolences over the nation's unfortunate incident, and stopped them from burning incense.

All the antireunification crimes committed in South Korea last year clearly proved once again that the National Security Law is the antinational, antireunification, evil law that runs counter to national unity and reunification and that the South Korean ruling bunch, using such an evil law as an instrument to stay in power, are national traitors and heinous and wicked splittists with whom we cannot cooperate [choguk tongirul wihaeso hamkke sonjapko naagalsu omnun minjok panyokchaimyo, hyungak mudohan punyolchuuijadul] for the country's reunification.

In concert with the Pomminnyon organizations of South Korea and overseas, all the patriotic forces aspiring for reunification at home and abroad, and the world's democratic organizations and human rights organizations, we should concentrate our efforts this year to expose to the world the antipeople, antihistorical, and antinational nature of the National Security Law and to abolish it along with the Agency for National Security Planning, thus opening an advantageous phase for the country's reunification without fail.

Third, we should deeply involve ourselves to actively support and implement the 10-point program for the great unity of the whole nation for the country's reunification which the great leader himself worked out and published and to actively realize the solidarity and alliance with the broad strata of movements and organizations aspiring for great national unity and the country's reunification.

To realize solidarity and alliance between the Pomminnyon and the reunification movements and organizations at home and abroad, we should wage concerted and joint struggles with broad strata of movements and organizations in the struggle for the country's reunification, giving priority to the common cause of the nation and putting our differences behind us [chaichomun twiro mirumyonso].

Fourth, we should continue to make great efforts this year to further strengthen the Pomminnyon organizations and to further enhance the Pomminnyon's responsibility and role in the reunification movement. This year, we should build Pomminnyon's North side headquarters stronger, form a Pomminnyon organization in South Korea, and actively support and encourage the struggle of the preparatory committee for the formation of Pomminnyon's South-side headquarters. In firm concert with all the Pomminnyon organizations overseas, we will unite the compatriotic masses of various circles and strata into the Pomminnyon organization, and make every effort to develop Pomminnyon's patriotic reunification movement into a new stage of three-way concerted movement.

The way to reunification in the nineties is not smooth but laden with many obstacles. Nevertheless, we are assured to win in our struggle for the country and the nation, because the fatherly leader is with us forever, because he leads our future brightly, and because the respected and beloved General Kim Chong-il—another outstanding leader—wisely leads our struggle for great national unity and the country's reunification.

Bearing deep in our hearts the great leader's teaching for reunification and upholding the great leader General Kim Chong-il, the lodestar of the country's reunification, we should thoroughly implement the task for the country's reunification set forth in the joint editorial of the organs of the party, the Army, and youth, so that we can brilliantly adorn this year as a year of opening a breakthrough for the realization of reunification in the nineties.

Let us all hold aloft the banner of the 10-point program for the great unity of the whole nation and wage a vigorous struggle until the day when we will fully realize the great leader's lifetime wish in the entire Korean land. [applause]

'Oppression' of Reunification Forces Denounced

SK3101111095 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1222 GMT 27 Jan 95

[Yun Pyong-son commentary: "Undisguised Attempt for Oppression"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a report, the Kim Yong-sam group on 23 January held a so-called conference of directors of prosecutors' offices across the country and handed out a directive of repression eradicating pro-North Korean leftist-leaning forces by strengthening anti-communist investigation capabilities.

That the bloodthirsty directive of oppression was handed out at the meeting of directors of prosecutors' offices, held for the first time in the new year, is an issue we should not overlook at all.

As is known to all, the pro-North Korean leftist-leaning forces that the fascist clique is claiming to eradicate maliciously are the patriotic reunification democratic forces from all walks of life in South Korea who aspire to the northern half of the Republic and who call for and are struggling to achieve independence, democracy, and reunification.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of national liberation and is the 50th year since the national was divided by outside forces.

The nation's division, which began in the mid-forties, has persisted even up to the mid-nineties. This division should not be allowed any longer. National reunification is the earnest and urgent task that should not be delayed any longer.

Our people, who have lived in the divided land painfully for over half a century, have risen in the grand march toward reunification with the firm will to open a turning point for national reunification this year by putting an end to the tragedy of division.

In line with this, the South Korean people are calling for and struggling to achieve reunification. This is indeed a just and reasonable act from the standpoint of not only the people's aspiration for reunification, of national reconciliation and unity, but also of the urgency of reunification. Therefore, this act absolutely cannot be the target of oppression.

Nevertheless, the Kim Yong-sam fascist clique is attempting to viciously repress the reunification democratic forces by labelling them as so-called leftist forces. This is a challenge to the nation's aspiration and to the trend of the time. Thus, the Kim Yong-sam fascist clique has more undisguisedly revealed its atrocious attempt to oppress and to completely eradicate the patriotic reunification democratic forces by wielding a bloody bayonet this year too.

Furthermore, what one should not tolerate is that the puppet clique is scheming to cruelly oppress the patriotic reunification democratic forces by linking them with us.

It is a well-known fact to all that last year the Kim Yong-sam group perpetrated a wholesale roundup of chuche idea believers and the people aspiring to the northern half of the Republic by branding them as forces attempting to overthrow the system of a so-called free democracy and as pro-communist forces.

The puppets are also scheming to commit the same act this year too. This is proven by the fact that through Pak Hong, the government-patronized president of Sogang University, the fascist clique forced applicants to the school to pledge that they will not join in the leftist violent struggle, and recently handed out a directive to eradicate pro-North Korean leftist forces.

The pro-North Korean leftist forces raved about by the puppets are being used as an excuse to oppress the patriotic reunification forces. Then, why did the Kim Yong-sam group reveal its criminal attempt for oppression from the beginning of the new year? This is related to a serious crisis in its rule.

Since the reform policy put forward by the traitor Kim Yong-sam resulted in complete bankruptcy, political confusion and disorder persists in South Korea, and such social evils as the murders by the Chijon hooligan faction and corruption and irregularities by tax officials prevail. Thus, the people's complaints about life hardships are resounding loudly.

To make matters worse, the traitorous confrontation policy and nation-selling flunkeyist policy of depending on outside forces, which have been implemented up to now, have failed. As a result, the puppets are now isolated and rejected at home and abroad.

A fierce power struggle has recently been touched off even within the ruling quarters. The Kim Yong-sam group put forward the so- called globalization plan in an attempt to avoid the deepening crisis in its rule. However, voices of rejection are resounding everywhere.

The reality shows that the Kim Yong-sam group has been driven into a last-ditch corner where it can no longer maintain power. Thus, the puppets are seeking a way out by intensifying its fascist oppression of people. However, this will only expose more clearly its true color as a fascist tyrant and as the enemy of reunification. This cannot be a means for settling the crisis in its rule. The fascist repression will only evoke the people's mass resistance and will result in accelerating its own downfall.

The Kim Yong-sam group should seek the lesson from the fate of its predecessors who greeted a miserable end while running amok with fascist oppression, should stop wielding bayonets and guns, and should immediately step down from power according to the people's demand. If the rascals, ignoring this, continue advancing along the road of war, division, and fascist oppression; they will not be able to evade the people's stern judgment.

Delegate to UN Forum Supports Humanitarian Law

SK3001103795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1010 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, January 30 (KCNA)—It is highly important for all the governments to respect, strictly observe and implement the international humanitarian law, said the DPRK delegate speaking at the meeting of the intergovernmental group of experts for the protection of war victims which opened in Geneva on January 23.

Noting that there are anti-humanitarian practices that POWs have not been released and repatriated still today when 40 odd years have passed since the ceasefire, he stressed the need to put international and regional pressure upon the governments which fail to implement the international humanitarian law.

He said: "In Korea and other East Asian countries, there are many war victims alive, who are suffering mentally and physically, the wounds on their minds not yet healed. Those governments which caused such damages must remove the damages and make material compensations."

"An expression of apology without practical act is nothing but an empty talk, which is made reluctantly for other political reasons, and it is an [words indistinct] international humanitarian law," he added.

Pak Song-chol Meets With Cuban Foreign Minister

SK3001104195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1029 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, January 30 (KCNA)—Pak Song-chol, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president, met and had a friendly conversation at the Mansudae Assembly Hall today with Roberto Robaina Gonzalez, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and foreign minister of the Republic of Cuba, on an official goodwill visit to Korea.

Saying that the friendly relations between Cuba and Korea are particular ones, the Cuban foreign minister added: Because they are based on intimacy between Comrade Fidel Castro and the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song." [no opening quotation mark as received]

Recalling that the Korean people felt bitter sorrow at the death of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song last year, he said Comrade Fidel Castro and the Cuban people shared the sorrow with the Korean people.

Saying that respected Comrade Kim Il-song was a great man, he added that nothing can make up for the death of such a great man.

He said:

"The Korean people are striving to accomplish the revolutionary cause started by the great leader by changing sorrow into courage. Today the Korean people have turned out as one to implement the policy set forth by respected Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong- il.

"Invariable will be the support and solidarity of the Cuban people for the Korean people in the struggle to accomplish the cause of socialism and reunify the country."

He expressed the belief that the interchange between the parties and peoples of the two countries would be expanded.

Papers Mark Anniversary of SRV Diplomatic Ties

SK3101102695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1007 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, January 31 (KCNA)—Papers here today dedicate articles to the 45th anniversary of the opening of diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level between Korea and Vietnam.

The establishment of diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level between Korea and Vietnam was the manifestation of common aspiration and desire of the two peoples to advance side by side in the struggle for the victory of the socialist cause and marked an epochal event in the development of friendly and cooperative relations between the two parties, two countries and two peoples, NODONG SINMUN in a signed article says, and goes on:

The two peoples have advanced along the road of socialism over the past 45 years, supporting and cooperating with each other. Korea-Vietnam friendship is greatly conducive to the building of a new society in the two countries. The Korean people are sincerely rejoiced over the achievements of the Vietnamese people in socialist construction, the article notes.

MINJU CHOSON in a signed article says:

This year is a significant year which the Vietnamese people will greet the 65th anniversary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, 50th anniversary of the Republic and the 105th birth anniversary of Comrade Ho Chi Minh. The Korean people sincerely wish the Vietnamese people greater success in the struggle to build socialist Vietnam successfully.

Papers say that the Korean people will as ever make strenuous efforts to consolidate and develop the friendly and cooperative relations with the Vietnamese people.

Hanminjon Japanese Statement Views Reunification

SK3001103195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, January 30 (KCNA)—The Japan mission of the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon) issued a statement on January 27 in support of "Declaration on Reunification and National Salvation in 1995" which was published by the Hanminjon Central Committee calling upon all the patriotic people and fellow countrymen to courageously turn out in the struggle for reunification this year.

The statement noted, "Our national reunification is not a reunification requiring priority given to idea and system but a reunification for which the entire fellow countrymen of the same blood must be reunited giving priority to the interests of the whole nation." "The ardent desire of our nation is the reunification by means of confederacy, not by 'prevailing over communism' or 'communisation,'" it added.

It said: "For the reunification, it is imperative to win the great unity of the whole nation under the banner of the '10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country' advanced by the great [word indistinct] Kim Il-song, and to strengthen the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification, the nation-wide front for reunification."

The statement called for the replacement of the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement.

Saying that the Kim Yong-sam's is a regime of flunkeyist traitors, fascist dictators and separatists who are more subservient, vicious and heterogeneous than the successive military dictatorial groups, it stated that with the regime left alone, it is impossible to achieve the great national unity and peaceful reunification.

Japanese Tourist Study Group Tours Sites

SK3101051995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0434 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, January 30 (KCNA)—The Japanese tourist study group continues its activity. It arrived here on January 27 for the Pyongyang International Sports and Cultural Festival for Peace to be held toward the end of April this year.

The members of the group visited the International Friendship Exhibition situated in Mt. Myohyang, a world famous scenic spot, and saw with keen interest gifts sent to the respected leader President Kim Il-song and the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il from different countries of the world.

More than 105,000 items of gifts are on display there.

They also inspected the Grand People's Study House, the Three Revolutions Exhibition, the Mansudae Art Studio and Pyongyang metro.

The visitors were deeply impressed by the fascinating mass gymnastic display which are being prepared by students and school children in Pyongyang for the February holiday.

They went around the tomb of King Tangun, the ancestral father of the Korean nation, and saw a colorful performance by art circle members of the Mangyongdae school children's palace.

On January 29 they went to Kaesong area and inspected the room where the armistice talks were held, the hall where the Armistice Agreement was signed, the conference room of the Military Armistice Commission, and the Koryo Museum.

Premier Sends Greetings to Indian Counterpart

SK2901114695 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Administration Council Premier Kang Song-san has sent a congratulatory message to P. V. Narasimha Rao, prime minister of the Republic of India.

In the congratulatory message, he extended warm congratulations to the prime minister on the occasion of the Indian national day. Saying that he firmly believes that the cooperative and friendly relations between the two countries will further develop and deepen in accordance with the interests of the two countries' peoples, the premier wrote that he truly hopes for a greater success in his work for independent development and prosperity of the country.

Indian Prime Minister Receives Labor Minister

SK3001042295 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 19 January, Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao received Yi Chae-yun, minister of the Ministry of Labor Administration and head of the DPRK delegation taking part in the fifth labor ministers' meeting of nonaligned and other developing countries.

During the meeting, the head of the delegation conveyed the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's greetings to Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao. The prime minister expressed deep gratitude and asked the head of the delegation to convey his sincere greetings to the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The prime minister said he hopes the Korean people will achieve great results in the work for the country's reunification and prosperity under the leadership of the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il.

WPK Receives New Year's Cards From Overseas

SK3101042895 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0406 GMT 31 Jan 95

[All names are as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, January 31 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party [WPK] of Korea received New Year's cards from Chairman of the Workers and Peasants Party of Pakistan Ghulam Nadikalr, the Leadership Council of the Arab Islamic Democratic Movement of Jordan, the Islamic world and Arab regional leadership of the International Front Against Zionism, Chairman of the foreign relations committee of the Central Committee of the Workers Communist Party of Norway Arnryot Ask, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Norway Jan Ingbe Ibersen, Co- chairmen of the German Communist Party Rolf Priemer and Heinz Stehr, Chairman of the Radical Party of France Jean Francois Hory, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Finland Wiryo Hakanen, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Greece Alek Papariga, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Portugal, General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Ireland Pat Quearney and its executive member and National Financial Chief John Garand, the National Leadership of the Italian Party for Communist Refoundation, and General Secretary Peter Symon and President Hanna Middleton of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party of Australia.

Kim Chong-il Receives Gift From Cuban Official

SK3001052795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0517 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, January 30 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a gift from Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, president of the Council of State and president of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba.

The gift was handed to Kim Yong-nam, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, vice-premier of the Administration Council and foreign minister, by Roberto Robaina Gonzalez, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and foreign minister, on Sunday [29 January].

Kim Chong-il Sends New Year's Messages Abroad

SK3001052395 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0511 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, January 30 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent messages of greetings to foreign state leaders on the new year.

The messages were sent to Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait; Phumiphon Adunyadet, king of Thailand; Burhanuddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan; Mu'ammar al- al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great September First Revolution of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya; Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt; Alpha Oumar Konare, president and head of state of the Republic of Mali; Mohamed Abdelaziz [spelling of name as received], president of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic and secretary general of the Polisario Front; Ange Felix Patasse, president of the Central African Republic; Henri Konan Bedie, president of the Republic of the Cote d'Ivoire; Pascal Lissouba, president of the Republic of the Congo; and John George Melvin Compton, prime minister of Saint Lucia.

Comrade Kim Chong-il extended warm congratulations to them and their peoples on the new year.

Believing that friendly and cooperative relations between the DPRK and their countries would further strengthen and develop, Comrade Kim Chong-il wished them greater success in their work for the prosperity of their countries.

Foreign Media Praising Kim Chong-il Cited

SK3101042795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0403 GMT 31 Jan 95

["Greatness of Comrade Kim Chong-il Praised by Foreign News Media"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, January 31 (KCNA)—Foreign news media praised the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The Zairean paper DEMAIN LE CONGO carried an article headlined "His Excellency Kim Chong-il leading socialist movement to victory".

The article said:

His Excellency Kim Chong-il is leading the socialist movement along a new road of chuche.

He proves in a scientific way that the chuche idea is the guiding idea leading the socialist movement to victory.

He is paying a deep attention to strengthening the driving force of the socialist movement.

His Excellency Kim Chong-il in his works gives a scientific analysis of the reactionary nature of modern imperialism and the inevitability of its downfall, clarifies the necessity of the final victory of socialism and resolves urgent international questions.

Radio Fiesta of Nicaragua said in an article headlined "benevolent politics of the great leader":

The whole party, the entire people and all the Army are firmly united around the great Comrade Kim Chong-il, the supreme leader in one mind in Korea.

The basic corner stone of this singlehearted unity is the benevolent politics of Comrade Kim Chong-il, the supreme leader of the Korean people.

The source of so deep respect, trust and loyalty of the Korean people to Comrade Kim Chong-il comes from his benevolent politics regarding believing in the people as in heaven as his motto.

The Ugandan paper THE CITIZEN, the Thai papers XIN ZHONG YUAN PAO and XING XIAN RIBAO carried articles lauding the greatness of Comrade Kim Chong-il under the titles "His Excellency Kim Chong-il's Theory on Socialist Construction", "Genius of Military Affairs" and so on.

Kim Chong-il's Birthday Celebrated Abroad

SK3101044495 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0413 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, January 31 (KCNA)—The birthday of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il was celebrated in different countries.

A preparatory committee for celebrating the birthday of Comrade Kim Chong-il was formed in Mozambique.

Minister of Home Affairs of Mozambique Manuel Jose Antonio was elected its chairman and a celebration period was set from February 1 to 20.

Celebration meetings were held in New Delhi, India, and Pueblo Nuevo, Chincha Province, Peru.

Hanging on the front walls of meeting halls were portraits of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The meeting in New Delhi was attended by the chairman of the legislative committee of the parliament who is a member of parliament and public officials and people.

A congratulatory letter to Comrade Kim Chong-il was adopted at the meeting and at the meeting in Peru a gift to him was handed to the Korean ambassador.

Lectures were given at the Secretariat of State of the Agricultural Hydraulics of the Ministry of Agriculture of Mozambique and the Zairean Youth Group for the Study of the Chuche Idea and a round-table talk was held in Harare, Zimbabwe.

A DPRK book, arts and crafts exhibition was open in Moscow on January 19 and 21 and a DPRK book and photo exhibition and a Korean film week opened in Chincha Province, Peru on the occasion of the birthday of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The Russian paper ISTOKI No. 1 and the January 22 issue of the Nigerian paper OBSERVER carried special write-ups on the holiday of February.

The Ugandan paper THE TRIBUNE January 20 carried an article on the greatness of the idea and theory of Comrade Kim Chong-il and Radio National of Peru January 18 broadcast an article headlined "Respects to His Excellency Kim Chong-il, Supreme Leader of the Korean People".

The Peru-Korea Institute of Culture and Friendship and the Peruvian Committee For Supporting the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea, together with political parties and organisations of Peru, decided to set a month of celebration between January 17 and February 16 in order to express boundless respects and reverence for His Excellency Kim Chong-il who has performed great exploits for the independence and prosperity of the country, the well-being and happiness of the popular masses and peace and friendship among the world people.

Kim Chong-il Lauded by Ghanaian Poet

SK3101051695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0430 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, January 30 (KCNA)—Ghanaian poet Isaiah Quao Morrison [name as received] recently wrote poems praising the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The poet in the poem "Son of Mt. Paektu" highly eulogizes Comrade Kim Chong-il as a great lodestar indicating the road of victory for the Korean people and the world revolutionary people.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, who grew up in the icy-cold wind of Mt. Paektu, is the great leader who has performed immortal feats in the accomplishment of the cause of chuche started by Generalissimo Kim Il-song, with brilliant wisdom, wise leadership ability and brilliant military strategy, the poet says.

In the poem titled "Shines Forever" the poet says that general Kim Chong-il is a beacon of hope, strong pillar and savior brightly illumining the world.

The poem lays stress on the idea that as general Kim Chong-il, the sun of Korea and the sagacious leader of the present time, confidently leads the world people to victory in the struggle for independence, no one will block their road.

The poet in the poem "Incarnation of Chuche" praises the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, as a great philosopher, the incarnation of the chuche idea, the sum total of the destiny of the world people and an eternal lodestar.

The poem entitled "The Dear Leader Comrade Kim Chong-il Is Always With Us" tells that as there is respected Comrade Kim Chong-il, the successor to the cause of chuche, the father of the world people and bright sun, the human cause of independence will always emerge victorious.

Kim Chong-il's Work Published in Yugoslavia

SK3001052595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0515 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, January 30 (KCNA)—"Socialism Is a Science", an immortal famous work of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, was brought out in booklet by the Belgrade Kultura Publishing House in Yugoslavia on January 23.

The booklet said in its preface:

Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great leader of the Workers' Party and the people of Korea, published the immortal famous work "Socialism Is a Science" on November 1, 1994.

In the work he, basing himself on a scientific insight into the pressing issues raised by the socialist movement in our era, clarified the truth, invincibility and eternity of socialism and comprehensively analysed and systematised the socialist idea as a science.

The work is of great significance because it shatters all sophism against socialism and gives the world people aspiring after socialism firm confidence in its victory and a powerful ideological and theoretical weapon.

Reflected in the work are the unshakable determination and will of Comrade Kim Chong-il to accomplish the cause of socialism with the chuche idea, the revolutionary idea of the great leader of the Korean people Comrade Kim Il-song, as the eternal guiding idea.

This work is published in booklet on the occasion of the 53rd birthday of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Secretary Han Thanks Official for Kim Chong-il

SK2901113495 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great leader [yongdoja] of our party and people, has sent thanks and gifts to Cha Sok-yong, an official of the Ministry of Marine Transport, and his wife Kim Song-suk who had done a good thing for the improvement of the people's health. [passage omitted]

A meeting to convey thanks and deliver gifts from the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il was held at the Ministry of Marine Transport on 26 January.

Present at the meeting were Comrade Han Song-yong, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and secretary of the party Central Committee; functionaries concerned; and the employees there.

Comrade Han Song-yong delivered thanks and gifts from the great leader [yondoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il. Discussions followed.

The speakers vowed to work hard to make our country, our fatherland, more prosperous by firmly arming themselves with the leader's [suryong] revolutionary idea and chuche idea and by closely rallying around the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il under the firm belief that the great leader [suryong] Comrade Kim Il-song will be forever with us. They stressed that, by so doing, they will dedicate themselves to brilliantly realizing the socialist cause, the chuche revolutionary cause.

Cuban Minister Visits Kim Il-song Statue

SK2901112795 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1030 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, January 29 (KCNA)—Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina Gonzalez, Politburo member of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Communist Party of Cuba, on an official goodwill visit to Korea, Saturday laid a floral basket before the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill.

Accompanying him were Vice-premier of the Administration Council and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, Politburo member of the C.C., the Workers' Party of Korea, Vice-minister of Foreign Affairs Song Ho- kyong and Cuban Ambassador to Korea Jose Ramon Rodriguez Varona.

Written on the ribbon hanging from the floral basket were the words "The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is immortal".

The Cuban guest made a bow after laying the floral basket before the statue of President Kim Il-song who devoted his whole life to the accomplishment of the cause of socialism, holding high the banner of anti-imperialism and independence,and developed the friendly relations between the Korean and Cuban peoples to a new, higher stage.

Construction of Najin-Sonbong Zone Progressing

SK3101151595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1503 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, January 31 (KCNA)—The construction of the Najin- Sonbong free economic and trade zone is going on at full swing.

The zone shares frontiers with China and Russia with River Tuman in between.

Situated in the centre of Northeast Asia, the zone covers 746 square kilometres.

It has natural and economic conditions, human and material potentials beneficial to development and economic activities.

The zone will be built as an international freight transit zone intermediating in large quantities of freights of Northeast Asian and other countries, a manufacturing industrial zone with processing export as the mainstay and an attractive international tourist resort.

The DPRK Government plans to build the Najin-Sonbong area into a comprehensively developed free economic and trade one looking forward to the 21st century, on the basis of its consistent external economic policy of developing economic cooperation and exchange with other countries on the principle of equity and mutual benefits under the idea of independence, peace and friendship, and is now positively pushing ahead with the project.

Foreign enterprises, financial organs, international organizations and individual investors are actively taking part in the development of the zone.

Reception Given for Foreign Travel Officials

SK3101052595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, January 31 (KCNA)—The State Preparatory Committee for the Pyongyang International Sports and Cultural Festival for Peace gave a reception in honor of the visiting travel officials of different countries at the Mongnan House here Monday evening.

Invited to the reception were officials of the Chugai Travel Co., Ltd. and the Japan Travel Bureau, who are visiting Korea as members of a Japanese tourist study group, and officials of the U.S. Geon Kum Travel and Tours and the Australian Tongil Travel Service.

A delegation of officials of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan led by Chong Kwang-su, deputy general director of the Secretariat of its Central Standing Committee, on a visit to the socialist homeland was present.

Present there were Vice-chairman of the Korean Asia-Pacific Peace Committee Yi Chong-hyok, Vice-chairman of the State Physical Culture and Sports Commission Kim Kwan-chol, who is director of the Secretariat of the State Preparatory Committee for the Festival, and other officials concerned.

Speeches were made at the reception.

Tourist Attractions in Kaesong Featured

SK3101045595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0425 GMT 31 Jan 95

["Kaesong, Renowned City"—KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, January 30 (KCNA)—Many visitors to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea go to Kaesong.

Situated 135 kilometers South of Pyongyang, Kaesong was the capital of the Koryo Dynasty (918-1392), a unified state for about 500 years.

Kaesong is widely known to the world because it was the capital of the Koryo Dynasty, the home of insam (ginseng) which is efficacious for health and longevity, and the city adjacent to the Military Demarcation Line on which the poles of war and peace confront each other.

It has quite a few scenic spots. There are the Pakyon fall known to be one of three famous falls of Korea, the wall on Mt. Taehung, the Taeungjon of the Kwanum temple and many other historical relics nearby.

The visitors are reluctant to leave the fall, enchanted by the beautiful mountains, rocks of strange shapes, crystal clean water, the grand fall which presents a superb view, harmonized with time- honored relics.

Preserved in the city are the Songgyungwan Academy (built in 992), the South gate of Kaesong the Sonjuk Bridge, the Manwoldae (the site of the Royal Palace), the Chomsongdae observatory, the Anhwa temple and other major relics of the Koryo Dynasty, numbering more than 100.

The tourists are attracted by the tomb of Wang Kon, the first king of the Koryo Dynasty, and the tomb of Kongmin, its 31st king. The royal tombs show well the excellent tomb architecture of the Korean nation.

A drive of 8 kilometers to the South from Kaesong brings you to Panmunjom, the confrontational point of war and peace. There you see the room where the armistice talks were held and the hall where the Armistice Agreement was signed on July 27, 1953, with the evidences in those days preserved in their original state.

In Kaesong one can see the concrete wall dividing Korea into two. The wall extending more than 240 kilometers from east to west, which the South Korean military dictators built, severed 8 counties, 122 villages, three railways, three highways and over 220 broad and narrow roads.

In Keasong tourists can see and purchase raw and processed Koryo insam (ginseng), a well-known elixir of life. And they can taste Kaesong Yakbap, Kaesong ball-shape kimchi, Kaesong roasted chicken with Insam and Kaesong insam liquor.

One can board and lodge according to the national custom of Korea at a peculiar folk hotel in Kaesong.

Marine Workers Increase Trade Cargo Transport

SK3101090795 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Embraced with the blazing mind to make their country and their fatherland all the more rich and powerful, functionaries and working class of the combined general bureau of marine transportation affiliated with the Marine Transportation Ministry are vigorously launching onto the new path forward. Since the outset of the new year, they have been bringing about innovative results in transporting trade cargo.

Station reporter Kim Mi-ok met with Pak Un-son, director of the combined general bureau of marine transportation of the Marine Transportation Ministry. He states as follows:

[Begin Pak recording] All the functionaries and working class of the combined general bureau of marine transportation affiliated with the Marine Transportation Ministry, who have embraced in their warm hearts the dear comrade leader's personal letter and the joint editorial carried by NODONG SINMUN on the morning of the start of the new year, have boosted their morale from the outset of the new year.

Therefore, up to the present time, the monthly task for transporting trade cargo entrusted to the general bureau shows a 35 percent increase when compared with the same period last year.

In particular, it was possible for Yonggwanggho and Osanho, including Chongchongangho and Taedonggangho where the trace of the fatherly leader's on-the-spot guidance is warmly marked, and Ssukchonho and Hwangkumsanho to overfulfill the monthly transport goal entrusted to them by 10 January.

Under the guidance of the party committee, all the functionaries of the ministry and combined bureau went into the lower echelons and gained a correct understanding of the situation and organized the transport and production command. Also, firepower of the work to enhance the utilization rate of ships was concentrated. First, work was carried out for [words indistinct] to be carried out well, and at the same time work of loading and unloading cargo was carried out quickly.

What is important, in particular, is that by carrying out the work of actively transporting trade cargo first, compared with the same period last year, this year the ship's [word indistinct] was increased by 1.3 times. Also, emphasis was placed on the work of ensuring the accessibility of necessary materials and supplies for ship repair bases. It was possible to carry out repair work by themselves at the appropriate time because everyone highly manifested the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude.

All in our combined general bureau have vigorously risen with one mind and one will to complete the February task by 16 February, the day of the dear comrade leader's birthday. We will not pride ourselves on this result, but highly manifest our party's policy that trade is best and achieve greater results in transporting trade cargo. Thus, we anticipate that we will welcome the 50th anniversary of the party founding with high political enthusiasm and brilliant labor results. [end recording]

Industries Reportedly Fulfill Jan Plans

SK3101102595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1002 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, January 31 (KCNA)—Industrial establishments in Korea have fulfilled their plans for this month one after another.

The January plan has been carried out by the Komdok mining complex which is a large-scale nonferrous metal ore producer, the Sangwon cement complex, the Kangso area united coal mine and the Chonchon united coal mine.

Coal mines under the South Hamgyong Provincial Minor Coal Mines Administration Bureau and the Soksu, Yongdal, Kyongam, Suan, Koksan and other coal mines in North Hamgyong and North Hwanghae Provinces carried out their monthly assignments more than one week ahead by topping their daily quotas.

The Unnyul mine overfulfilled its iron ore production plan by 20.5 percent and the Sangnong mine carried out its plan, which was 20 percent higher than last year's, at 104 percent in the industrial production value.

The Pyongyang silk mill and the Pakchon silk mill finished their assignments on all indices above 5 days ahead.

Garment factories under the Pyongyang general bureau of garment industry and the Kaesong garment factory, too overfulfilled their monthly plans. And the Tongdaewon garment factory, the Samsok export garment factory, the Kaechon export garment factory and the Pyongsong garment factory carried out their plans for export goods ahead of the schedule.

The May 10 general factory, the Changjingang power station and the Kanggye youth power station, too, creditably fulfilled their plans.

Many other industrial establishments successfully hit their plans for the first month, among them Chongjin and Hungnam ports, the March 4 factory, the Tongnim electric appliance factory, and Pyonghwa, Kumipo and Naksan mariculture farms.

Workers Accelerate Production, Construction

SK3101120995 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The working classes in various places throughout the country, who have unanimously launched themselves into the worthwhile new year's general onward march, are vigorously accelerating production and construction by highly displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude.

They are enthusiastically struggling to increase production in a bid to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the party with great political zeal and brilliant labor feats. The national industrial output value for 20 days in the first month of this meaningful year was boosted to 101 percent, compared with the same period last year, and the production was increased in all indices of products, such as electric power, coal, forestry, and cement.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, great leader [yongdoja] of our party and people, has vigorously organized and mobilized all the people—who have stoutly risen up to complete the chuche revolutionary cause, upholding the teaching left by the fatherly leader—to the struggle for socialist economic construction and is leading them to victory.

The working classes across the country, who received dear Comrade Kim Chong-il's personal letter of love and trust on their way to the new year's onward march, have bravely launched themselves into the struggle to increase production to make our country, our fatherland, wealthier and stronger, firmly united around the great leader [yongdoja].

The working classes in the electric power industry, coal industry, and railway transportation sectors, which are primary sectors of the national economy, are registering labor results in the production battle for the first month of this meaningful year, with an attitude worthy of the great leader's [suryongnim] fighters and his pupils.

Electric power producers throughout the country are deeply aware of their duties in implementing the party's revolutionary economic strategies. They are tenaciously managing facilities and technologies and guarantee their operation at full capacity.

Hydroelectric power plants across the country, including Hochongang and Changjingang power plants, overfulfilled daily production plans every day for the past 20 days. Thermal power plants, including Tongpyongyang thermal power plant, also scored gains in generating electric power and hot water for heating.

Bearing deep in mind the teaching left by the great leader, who made great efforts to develop the coal industry, saying coal is industrial food, miners throughout the country increased coal production for 20 days this month by 6 percent over the same period last year, giving priority to tunneling and increasing the operating rate of mining facilities.

At tunneling platoons of the Tokchon district mining complex, including the Yi Yong-chik tunneling platoon at the Tokchon mine and the Kim Yong-il tunneling platoon at the Toksong mine, have strengthened the high-speed tunneling movement, followed by active coal mining. This mining complex boosted coal production at 107 percent for the same period, compared with last year.

Mines in Anju, Sunchon, Kaechon, and Pukchang districts, leading coal production bases of the country, are also excellently fulfilling daily coal production plans.

Miners in various places throughout the country are vigorously struggling to increase mineral production, with the fervent desire to devote themselves to strengthening and flourishing our country, our fatherland.

Miners at the Komdok and Musan mines are effecting a turnabout in producing lead, zinc, and steel ore, with faithful ardor to glorify the immortal leadership achievements of the great leader and dear comrade leader.

Miners at the Ullyul mine increased the rate of soil and rock removal for 20 days this month by 35 percent, compared with the same period last year, and they accomplished 70 percent of the monthly iron ore production plan.

Innovations are also effected in the transportation sector. Railway transportation workers have strengthened the 5.18 no-accident, on-time, traction-standard-surpassing movement, thus blowing the whistle of loyalty along the two arterial lines of the country.

Locomotive units and railway stations throughout the country, including Sopyongyang and Chongju locomotive units, transported more cargo to socialist construction sites, by correctly organizing and supervising transportation. The Kim Chong-tae electric locomotive complex and the June 4 automobile complex have accelerated production of locomotives and freight wagons.

The marine transportation sector, which has vigorously carried out the transportation battle since the first day of this year, is overfulfilling daily plans at 108 percent for domestic cargo transport and at 117 percent for trade cargo transport.

The land transportation sector scores gains in transporting cargo by increasing the automobile use ratio.

Plants and enterprises are stoutly carrying out the struggle to implement the party's light industry-first policy. Various spinning, knitting, shoe, and daily necessities plants across the country have strengthened a mass movement for technological innovation and are increasing production of various people's consumption goods, by using existing labor, existing facilities, and existing materials, highly displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude.

As the mass struggle to produce the 3 August people's consumption goods has been actively carried out, high-quality necessities to be of great help for the working people's daily life are being produced in large quantities.

The working classes in the forestry industry, the building material industry, and various other sectors are also contributing to the implementation of the party's revolutionary economic strategies.

Workers and technicians at forestry stations throughout the country, who are making active efforts to send more logs to various sectors of the national economy, produced logs for the past 20 days at 108 percent compared with the same period last year. The production of wooden props for the same period was innovatively increased by 1.4 times over last year in the Yanggang Provincial forestry general bureau, and 1.2 times in Chagang Provincial Forestry General Bureau.

The Chongju microelement calcium superphosphate fertilizer plant overfulfilled the monthly plan at 122 percent as of 20 January. The Chungsan mine has accomplished over 70 percent of the monthly phosphorite production plan, contributing to increasing phosphate fertilizer production.

Great results have also been made in creating monumental buildings of the Workers' Party era. Soldiers of the Korean People's Army unit where Comrade Kang Chin-sop belongs, and of the Korean People's Security Forces unit where Comrade Kim Chi-tok belongs are registering labor feats in the second-stage building of Chongnyu Bridge and in the building of Kumnung Tunnel No. 2, upholding the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander's order. They carried out enormous construction works for the past 20 days, fully demonstrating heroic traits of one-a-match-for-100 soldiers.

Party shock brigade members are devoting all their youthful wisdom and enthusiasm to building the Party Founding Monument, a monument that will convey our party's honorable history through generations, and keep overfulfilling daily plans at 150 percent or more.

Changjingang Power Plant Overfulfills Power Goal

SK3001141395 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Upholding the party's revolutionary economic strategy, the electricity-generating workers of the Changjingang Power Plant are normalizing the generation of electricity at a high level. As befitting the warriors of the fatherly leader, they are vigorously generating electricity, in the new year's rewarding onward march for the prosperity and development of our country, our fatherland. For 20 days, they have generated 2,947,500 kwh more electricity than originally planned.

The electricity-generating workers at Nos. 1 and 2 electricity generating workshops, who are standing at the head of achieving innovations with a high consciousness of being the masters of production and facilities, are sending more electricity to various sectors of the people's economy by taking good care of water and making the most of the existing water.

National Poster Exhibition Opens in Pyongyang

SK3101052195 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0418 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, January 31 (KCNA)—A national exhibition of posters opened at the Folkcraft Exhibition here on Monday.

Displayed at the exhibition hall are over 150 posters showing the immortal leadership exploits of the respected leader President Kim Il-song, who devoted all his life to the freedom and happiness of the people and to the prosperity and development of the country, and the indomitable stamina and the might of the singlehearted unity of the Korean people, who are making long strides to accomplish the cause of socialism, the revolutionary cause of chuche, under the wise guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

On show are also posters encouraging the entire people to greet the 50th birthday of the Workers' Party of Korea with a high degree of political enthusiasm and brilliant achievements in construction and production, and posters calling for promoting the cause of national reunification in unity under the banner of "10-point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country" advanced by President Kim Il-song.

South Korea

U.S.-DPRK Talks Fail To Agree on Reactors

SK3001233795 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2200 GMT 30 Jan 95

[Report by correspondent Yi Myong-ku from Berlin]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States and North Korea are to hold a third day of light-water reactor talks at the North Korean Interests Section in Berlin this afternoon [31 January Korean time] to discuss the type and the supply method of light-water reactors.

The United States and North Korea intend to round up the second round of expert-level meeting for light-water reactors with today's talks, but it seems that depending upon the result of today's meeting, there is a possibility of extending the talks.

It was learned that the two sides met twice for talks at the Berlin office of the U.S. Embassy yesterday, but failed to reach an agreement on the type of reactors, the major pending issue.

Meanwhile, Kim Chong-u, North Korean senior delegate, is expected to meet the authorities of Siemens, German producer of light-water reactors.

IAEA, North 'Narrowed Differences' in Talks

SK3101005895 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0000 GMT 31 Jan 95

[By correspondent Cha Man-sun from Vienna]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learned that the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and North Korea narrowed differences on some matters of dispute during the second round of working-level negotiations on the freeze of nuclear weapons resumed in Yongbyon.

IAEA Spokesman Kyd said that in the week-long working-level negotiations with North Korea, discussions were held on the issues of freezing nuclear weapons and on the dry storage of fuel rods, and that considerable results were achieved.

The IAEA delegation, including (Pericos), director of inspection, will return to Vienna on the afternoon of 31 January.

DPRK 'Optimistic' About Ties With Manila

SK3101090095 Seoul YONHAP in English 0853 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangkok, Jan. 31 (YONHAP)—North Korea is optimistic of establishing diplomatic relations with the Philippines, a source with the North Korean Embassy here said on Tuesday.

The source, however, told YONHAP in a telephone interview that he couldn't definitely set the date for restoration of the ties because he had to wait for the results of the negotiations now underway between the two countries in Manila.

Two North Korean diplomats including Ambassador to Thailand Yi To-sop and a high-ranking Philippine diplomat are currently engaged in negotiations for restoration of the bilateral relations and ways to expand two-way trade.

The Philippines, which along with Brunei has no diplomatic relations with the communist country, learnedly agreed to set up ties by the end of 1991 with exchange visits of high-ranking figures but postponed due to the thorny nuclear development problems posed by Pyongyang.

'Source': DPRK Rehearsing Reunification Parade

SK3001025995 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 28 Jan 95 p 2

[By correspondent Yu Sang-chol from Hong Kong]

[FBIS Translated Text] A well-informed North Korean source in Hong Kong revealed on 28 January that under the assumption Korea will be reunified in 1995—the year North Korea resolved to make the "year of reunification"—Pyongyang has been rehearsing a large reunification military parade, spreading the propaganda that it will hold this military parade in Seoul.

As of October last year, soldiers over 170cm tall near Pyongyang and from various military units were selected and gathered at Pyongyang's Maram Officers Training School. Every day, hundreds and thousands of soldiers rehearse for the reunification military parade.

This source also conveyed that since mid-July of last year, following Kim Il-song's death, a sign board 20cm in width and 120cm in length and bearing the slogan "Let's elucidate 1995 as the year for the fatherland's reunification" was put up on the walls of guard posts, barracks, and commander's offices in each military unit, thus greatly instilling an awareness for reunification.

In particular, at compulsory lectures in which general workers participate one to two times a week, they are heated in their carrying out of ideological education, even hinting at the theory of reunification through arms, saying reunification is dependent on our guns and knives.

Obstacles to N-S Economic Cooperation Viewed

SK3101011495 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 29 Jan 95 p 13

[Article by reporter Yi Chae-yol]

[FBIS Translated Text] Rumors have circulated that the Koryo National Industrial Development Association [KNIDA], a North Korean representative window for South-North economic cooperation, will be disbanded. These are bad signs for the promotion of South- North economic cooperation. According to ROK business circles on 28 January, the following rumors of various kinds are rapidly spreading: "KNIDA Chairman Yi Song-nok has stopped conducting his activities" or "It has been found out that he received several hundreds of thousands of U.S. dollars in return for his issuance of letters of invitation to ROK enterprises to visit the North" or "KNIDA has been disbanded and merged into the Committee for the Promotion of the External Economic Cooperation [CPEEC]."

It is very difficult to verify if such rumors are true or not. This is because there are limited ways to verify relevant matters due to North Korea's closed nature, and because of this, it would take a considerably long period of time to verify such things. In the past, if a North Korean official did not show up in public for several days, there was a rumor that he had been purged or was dead. In view of this, such rumors in themselves may be groundless. Hong Chi-son, director of the North Korean Affairs Office of the Korea Trade Promotion Corporation, said: "There is a remote possibility that such rumors are true. I have heard that Chairman Yi Song-nok has been actively engaged activities until recently, while meeting with ROK figures in Pyongyang and the PRC in December of 1994 and early this year, too."

But, we cannot rule out the possibility that such rumors are true. If this were the case, it is believed that the entire South- North economic cooperation would be fatally affected. ROK businessmen are becoming tense, saying: "The fact in itself that negative rumors are circulating may change the current of the economic cooperation."

If, by any chance, Chairman Yi has been demoted because he has been bribed, and if the fact that a ROK enterprise has given him a bribe turns out to be true, then, there is the high likelihood that the trust in ROK enterprises will be eroded, and the economic cooperation, which is now in its initial stage, will face an obstacle for the time being. Even if the rumors prove to be groundless, there is the concern that the activities of the North Korean officials involved in economic cooperation will be restricted to a considerable extent.

A bigger problem is the background from which such rumors have come. It is highly likely that those rumors are based upon a malicious propaganda created by an excessive competition between ROK enterprises. In fact, it is true that ROK enterprises have been engaged in a free-for-all competition for economic cooperation. Typical of such an example is that two business groups, whose group names begin with an S and a D, respectively, were once in a tug-of- war over their respective fact-finding teams' visit to the North. One executive official of the group, whose group name begins with an S, spun out a rumor to the media, saying: "The business group, whose group name begins with a D, is cheating everybody as if its fact- finding team had been to North Korea, even though such a team has never been there."

To this, the business group, whose group name begins with a D, expressed its exasperation, saying: "Since the authorities concerned made public the measure to galvanize economic cooperation, the business group, whose group name begins with an S, has been late in participating in the economic cooperation; it has failed to become the first to visit the North and to go into Pyongyang; then, it is attempting to do damage to our business group which is the leader in the economic cooperation."

The business group, whose group name begins with a D, has sent a letter of protest to the business group, whose group name begins with an S, to the effect that if such a thing should happen again, it will not put up with this, while saying: "If necessary, we will show you relevant photographs."

And, the business group, whose group name begins with an S, has expressed its intention to apologize, thereby bringing this incident to a conclusion. But, the nerves of the business group, whose group name begins with a D, are on edge, while still believing that its rival business group has spread the following disinformation: Its own group's chief executive officer has visited the North; and it is not certain yet where it will be able to win a $5.2 billion-worth project.

One businessman said: "The fact that there are two North Korean windows for economic cooperation may possibly have helped circulate such malicious propaganda."

KNIDA is responsible for the development the Pyongyang and Nampo area, while the CPEEC (chairman: Kim Chong-u) is in charge of developing the Najin-Sonbong area. Accordingly, this does not mean that the North Korean windows are competing with each other, but ROK enterprises using the first window may find fault with other ROK enterprises using the second window. The same businessman added: "Therefore, we can interpret this situation as meaning that the business group—whose group name begins with a D—whose team has been to Pyongyang, and a clothing company—whose company name begins with an S—are using the KNIDA channel, while the two other business groups—whose group names begin with an S—are using the CPEEC channel."

Hansin To Build 'Officetels' in Najin-Songbong

SK3001032095 Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 28 Jan 95 p 2

[By reporter Chong Po-chol]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the first time a domestic construction company, Hansin Kongyong, will build an 'officetel' and lodging complex in the Anjudong District of North Korea's Najin-Sonbong region.

On 27 January, Hansin Kongyong concluded an official contract with Hong Kong's (Uniforce) Company (Chairman Yin Qingyi) to jointly invest in the project to develop North Korea's Najin-Sonbong region.

The (Uniforce) Company has already completed a contract with the Economic General Development Company, affiliated to the Committee for the Promotion of External Economic Cooperation (Chairman Kim Chong-u), for the lease of the land.

The (Uniforce) Company will conclude contracts for the lease of the land, which is needed for the development project; Hansin Kongyong will be in charge of design and construction work. The interest gained here will be distributed through the money received for selling space in the 'officetel' and lodging complex.

In this connection, Hansin Kongyong and the (Uniforce) Company established a joint working headquarters to deal with the North Korean project. As soon as permission is granted from the ROK Government, they will begin development; the 'officetels' and offices will be sold to domestic and foreign companies.

North Said Building Computer Manufacturing Plant

SK2901024995 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 29 Jan 95 p 3

[By staff reporter Yu Chong-mo]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] North orea has been building a large- scale computer manufacturing plant in Pyongyang.

The six-story plant, under construction on a site covering about 39,600 sq. meters near the Taedong River, is designed to produce 16- byte (AT-class) PCs, the Nation Computerization Agency (NPA) [acronym as received] said yesterday.

Pyongyang is also pushing to construct industrial facilities in an effort to make VLSI (very large scale integration) and MSI (medium scale integration) circuits.

A 8-byte (XT-class) PC is the most advanced computer being produced in the North for now.

North Korea seeks to upgrade its PC manufacturing capability to the 16-byte class with the combletion of the "Pyongyang Computer Factory."

NPA, affiliated with the Ministry of Information and Communications (MIC), released an analysis on the latest trends in North Korea's information and telecom industry.

North Koreans are still at the stage of assembling parts to produce a finished computer product, the analysis said.

Because Pyongyang has concentrated on fostering a computer software industry, it largely depends on imports for the supply of hardware.

Pyongyang plans to intensively foster electronics engineering, information technology, new materials engineering in four strategy fields.

As recently as the late 1970, North Korea was lagging behind the South by just three to five years in the electronics fieldso.

But the technological gap has widened sharply in recent years, the analysis noted.

As for the widening gap, the analysis pointed out that the North had been negligent in importing advanced foreign technologies in the fields of IC [information and communiations] and computers and thus failed to keep in touch with the world's technological trends.

Entering the 1980s, the North Korean authorities started to direct their attention to the computer industry. They exerted desperate efforts to lure investment from foreign companies.

Norh Korean students were dispatched to the former Soviet Union and Eastern European countries to acquire advanced technologies there from 1985.

The North had introduced IC manufacturing technology, PC application technology and fiber-optic cable manufacturing technology through the UNDP [United Nations Development Program] during the 1980s.

An IC manufacturing plant was built in Pyongyang and semiconductor factories were set up in Haeju and Tanchon, respectively, in 1989.

An international robot exhibition was held in Pyongyang in June 1990.

Pyongyang asked the West in 1992 to help relax the COCOM (Coordinating Committee for Export to Communist Areas) regulations imposed against it.

North Korea developed Hangul (Korean) document-editing program and a word processor five years ago.

An MS Window System-based DB [database], equipped with a graphic design function, has been used there since 1993.

The keyboard arrangements of North Korean-made PCs are the same as the PCs in use in the South.

Communications services are classified as three groups in the North—telecommunications (telephone andwire and wireless telegraph), postal communications (mail, parcel, and remittance) and broadcasting (TV and radio?).

North Korea had expanded its telephone circuits to 2 million by 1993.

It currently maintains three satellite telephone circuits and 10 telex circuits through Intelsat after opening satellite links with Japan in November 1990.

Nevertheless, North Korea's information and telecom industries still remain widely underdeveloped, the analysis concluded.

North Purchases 'Old' Tram Cars From Switzerland

SK2901085295 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 25 Jan 95 p 7

[By YONHAP]

[FBIS Translated Text] Recently, North Korea purchased 18 old Swiss tram cars that are on the verge of being sent to junk yards for 250,000 Swiss francs to use them for mass transportation. According to Swiss papers, the Zurich Public Transportation Bureau received the proposal of the North Korean Embassy in Berlin stating that North Korea hoped to purchase 40-year-old trams cars that are on the verge of being sent to junk yards. The tram cars were already sent to North Korea through the Dutch Vlissingen port last week.

Punishment Rate in USFK 'Decreasing Adversely'

SK3001032295 Seoul YONHAP in English 0311 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Jan 30 (YONHAP)—A crime rate of the United States Forces in Korea [USFK] is increasing every year, but charges and trials by the country is decreasing adversely.

The Seoul District Prosecution said Monday [30 January] that offences committed last year by the American soldiers stationed here totaled 671, up 9.3 percent from 614 over the previous year.

But indictments against them were slid to 10 in 1994, down 1.6 percent from 19 in 1993, according to the prosecution.

In connection with the U.S. servicemen's criminal acts, cases of the country's giving up its jurisdiction rights tallied 513 or 76.5 percent of the total from 430 in 1993, prosecutors said.

Among the dropped cases, fives were no suspicions, 34 stay of indictments and 43 no arraignment rights, indicating that criminal punishments were very low, though jurisdiction rights had been excersized, they noted.

By suspicion against crimes by the U.S. servicemen, violation of the Road Control Law were 291, followed by violence with 183, violation of the special law of traffic accident settlement with 92, larceny with 40 and violation of the Customs Tariff Law with six, according to the prosecution.

Bank of Korea Reports Increase in Import Prices

SK3001094495 Seoul YONHAP in English 0859 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Jan. 30 (YONHAP)—Sharply rising prices of imported goods are expected to become a precarious factor in consumer prices.

The imported-goods price trend in January released Monday by the Bank of Korea (BOK) showed that the prices soared 0.8 percent from last year's end and 11.8 percent from the same month last year.

Accordingly, both producers and consumer prices is highly likely to ascend, BOK officials worried.

By item, raw materials increased 14.4 percent from a year ago and basic raw materials rose 21 percent, they said.

But capital goods declined 0.2 percent from last year's end but 0.9 percent from a year before.

Consumer goods also decreased 0.1 percent from the previous month and 2.6 percent over 1993, according to the BOK.

Among the basic raw materials, prices of raw cotton soared due to the bad harvest of such major producing nations as China and India, while those of materials for paper and nonferrous metals climbed because of growth in demand with the favorable condition of the world economy, the officials noted.

Defense Ministry Introduces 'Infomax' System

SK2801022395 Seoul YONHAP in English 0154 GMT 28 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Jan. 28 (YONHAP)—The Defense Ministry has introduced a "computer competitive bidding" system for purchasing the foreign exchange it needs to pay for overseas procurement.

Under the new system that will be implemented next month, the ministry's procurement department will receive bids and determine successful bidders through the "Infomax" computer network, a comprehensive financial information service offered by YONHAP News Agency.

Since 1991 the ministry has purchased necessary foreign exchange through open bids participated in personally by foreign exchange dealers of all city banks.

About 900 to 1,100 million dollars was previously purchased by the ministry a year.

A department official said Friday [27 January] that since the lowest and successful bidder is automatically displayed on a monitor screen, the computer bidding system would serve to dispel any grounds for disputes surrounding bids.

Besides, he said, the computer system would enable the ministry to save a lot as it facilitates timely bids for foreign exchange.

Open-bidding foreign exchange procurement has already had the effect of saving the ministry about 3.5 billion to 4 billion won a year, the official added.

* Dissidents-Turned-Politicians' Political Status

* Dissidents in the DLP

952C0040A Seoul MAL in Korean Nov 94 pp 80-85

[By reporter Kim Kyong-hwan: "Former Masses Party Leaders Going Their Way: An Interim Assessment of Dissidents' Experiment in Politics"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

> **Assessments of the Masses Party experiment are much the same. In a nutshell, they find it a "failure." Why did the Masses Party—which attempted to find its place in conservative politics under such revolutionary planks as nationalization of key industries—go bankrupt? What are its leaders—who insisted on turning the masses into a political force—doing now?**

In our society, is it really possible for a party of progressive nature to win national support and secure a political foothold? Still, the answer to the question is "No". Then, will it be possible in the future? To that, too, few people seem to have a clear answer. It can be assumed, however, that many are negative, or skeptical at least, about it at least at the moment. Then, change the question slightly and ask, "Do you think it is necessary that we have a progressive party?" The ratio of those who would answer in the affirmative jumps. There is indeed a need for it but it has no chance of realization—this is the quintessence of a "Does It Exist or Does It Not?" quiz produced by our society.

Ex-Dissidents in DLP Have Their "Reasons for Conversion"

At about the same time when Chijonpa gang-related revelations were sending shock waves through our society, the nation's political camps were reverberating with another incident. Yi U-chae, then Masses Party chairman, and Chong Tae-yun, spokesman of the same, quit the Masses Party and joined the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP]. In a statement on their decision to join the DLP, they "reflected" on their conduct and said that "there was a time when we were absorbed temporarily in radical methodology but we have realized that we were wrong."

Reactions to the development varied. Conservative forces in and out of the DLP showed strong rejection, insisting that it was "premature" to accept them. Reps. An Mu-hyok and Kwak Chong-chul issued statements demanding explanations by the party leadership. They said "it is a mistake for the party to accept the anti-establishment figures who once denied the legitimacy of the Republic of Korea and its government." Meanwhile, their former colleagues in the Masses Party, supporters, and sympathizers were either infuriated or felt they were betrayed. The Working Committee for a Progressive Party [WCPP]—made up by Masses Party remnants—released a comment strongly denouncing the two for having "abandoned comrades and joined the ruling party where milk and honey abound."

Criticisms against them focused on two points basically, namely, that they committed the historic mistake of disrupting the solidarity of pro-democracy forces and that they failed to fulfill their responsibilities toward the masses. More specifically, critics said that in the old days of Chonminnyon [National Democratic Alliance of Korea], they had founded the Masses Party in defiance of the leadership's decision that it was "premature" to turn Chonminnyon into a political entity, creating a split in the dissident movement. And finally they now "capitulated" to fame and fortune, said critics.

Then, what was it that drove them into the venture despite the anticipated hailstorm of criticism? Was it really a desire for fame? Or was it a genuine motive to discharge what they thought was their historic responsibility? Let's listen to their own explanations.

Yi U-chae said: "In political realities in Korea, existence of a progressive party is impossible. The concept and substance of progressive politics should be put to a total review now. The best way available now is to join the ruling party and help fulfill the historic meaning and mission of the civilian government."

Chong Tae-yun said: "Things are changing. We need reform for our survival through the raging, global waves of change. It is necessary, therefore, to help the DLP, which is the most reform-oriented party, do a better job. Reform is more than a single regime's business. For the nation's future, all forces should join hands."

Their decision was based on such firm convictions, but many are apprehensive about their future. They wonder if they will be able to find their places in the DLP to carry out their plans.

Those who switched to the DLP shared the same perception. They argue that since the contents of progress changed, the mode of activity should change accordingly. Kim Mun-su, former chairman of the Masses Party labor committee, who joined the Democratic Party [DP] in March, cited—in his analysis of the failure of the Masses Party—three reasons.

"First, it had a problem with its ideology. While criticizing capitalism, it lacked an alternative to it. Second, it was inexperienced in elections. Debate on tactics thrived but the party found itself helpless on the battlefield. Third, it was a party little known to the public. Even its members of repute were virtually unknown to the masses," said he.

Other Masses Party sources offered similar analyses. As subjective and objective factors responsible for the failure, they pointed to the electoral system centering on single-seat constituencies and the party's financial and organizational deficiencies and, most importantly, to the "peculiarities unique in Korea." They insist that a progressive party has no viability in the realities that the National Security Law is still very much alive and that the "Red complex" remains deep-seated in the national sentiment. Then, what had led them in the first place to believe that a progressive party was viable in Korea?

Chong Tae-yun said: "As a result of the victory of the June [1987] pro-democracy resistance, the political environment became markedly liberal. So, we concluded that it would grow difficult for dissident organizations to win the public's support in the future. We believed that it was the demand of the times that we play fair and square and openly."

If so, it leads to this conclusion: Their decision was based on an expanded subjective interpretation of the situation then. They cannot escape charges that their action based on that wrong assessment of the situation accelerated Chonminnyon's split and disrupted the solidarity of the pro-democracy forces.

In regard to damage the Masses Party inflicted on the democratic mass movements [DMM], Chonminnyon charged that "the party's political leaning to the left caused an estrangement between the DMM and the masses and, organizationally, its defiance of DMM decisions created confusion and division in the movements thereafter." It then pointed out that it is a wrong attitude that "the Masses Party is trying to shift the blame for its failure onto the progressive movement itself or a change in the objective situation."

Then, what prompted them to join the DLP as an alternative to their failed Masses Party experiment? Yi U-chae, Chong Tae-yun and Kim Mun-su attributed it to "the change of times." Their view of progress, reform, and the nature of the Kim Yong-sam regime is very clear. Progress in the past meant socialism centering on the working classes, they assert, but today it means globalization centering on diversity.

Yi U-chae said: "People are no longer interested in the question of disparity in wealth. The monthly wage of the producing worker is as high as 1 million to 1.5 million won, isn't it? Their cars and leisure life are more important to them than the wage. The meaning of progress has changed. It now means consumption, health, and the like."

A major factor in their decision that the world has changed was the disintegration of the East European bloc, which brought them to conclude that socialism was not the alternative for them. Then came the Kim Yong-sam regime as another factor inspiring them to make the about-face. They view President Kim as one of the most reform-oriented leaders; by that logic, the DLP would be the most reform-oriented party and joining hands with it would be the best choice for them.

Only two years have passed since the failure of the Masses Party. While their anguish could be fully understandable, some say that it is premature for them to talk about the changing times. Others say that they think too highly, and in a self-serving manner, of the Kim Yong-sam government. Kim Kun-tae, chairman of the National Council for Democratic Reform and Democratic Government was critical—cautiously though—of their conduct when he said that the most important virtue expected of a politician is consistency. They exhibited a posture lacking a sense of responsibility when they switched to the DLP, he said.

"Everyone knows that the times have changed. Evidences of change are everywhere, including the expanded roles for politics and the standoff of conservatism versus reform that has replaced the confrontation between progress and conservatism. However, if one should make a decision solely based on present phenomena, he is vulnerable to committing subjective errors," he said.

Progressive Party, Its History of Failure and Today

It was around the time of the June, 1987, pro-democracy resistance when a progressive party debate began in earnest. As the antidictatorship struggle forces of the 1970's and 1980's won partial victories in that resistance, they opened serious debates on their "conversion into a political force." There was indeed the "Party of the Masses" in 1988 but it was nothing more than one put together hastily for election purposes, and a full-scale debate on the progressive party issue began in the latter half of 1989, led by Chonminnyon. At its second convention on 26 September 1989, Chonminnyon resolved that "groups and members who want to participate in the founding of a political party shall resign their present positions in Chonminnyon before doing so." Thus, eight leaders, including Yi U-chae and Chang Ki-pyo, quit Chonminnyon to work for a progressive party—the original Masses Party which we commonly call the Masses Party. This faction eventually founded the Masses Party on 10 November 1990 with 51 district chapters and a total membership of 2,000. It merged with the Labor Party of Korea led by Chu Tae-hwan on 19 January 1992 and became the new Masses party or the "merged" Masses Party.

In the 14th general election in 1992, the Masses Party ran 51 candidates for the 237 constituencies. It could not win a single seat, however. All it won was 319,000 popular votes or 1.5% of the total valid votes. It thus became difficult for the Masses Party to maintain its legal status and heated controversies erupted over its future course. Top leaders such as Yi U-chae and Chang Ki-pyo called for dissolution of the organization while a majority of members including district chapter chairmen insisted on continuation. Yi U-chae and Chang Ki-pyo, balking a central committee decision, left the party and separately formed the Council for Democratic Reform and Social Progress (Minsahyop). Meanwhile, those who remained in the party formed the WCPP on 15 April 1992. In less than two years, the progressive party movement collapsed. Then, what are the leaders of that time doing now?

Kim Chol-su, expelled from the party in 1991 for a breach of party discipline after forming a leftist group and accusing the party leadership of "reformism," and Professor O Se-chol, who quit the party in protest against it, created the Masses Political Alliance in December 1993 to carry on their activities. This organization is the result of a merger between the Preparatory Committee for a Masses Conference and the WCPP. Incidently, Professor O became news recently when he was appointed dean of the Yonsei University business administration school.

Yu In-yol, who headed the party organ committee and was one of the key leaders, is currently known operating the Kwangmyong Cultural Center and active with local community movements. Chu Tae-hwan, who founded the Labor Party of Korea and declared the end of the vanguard role of the labor movement, once worked in the "merged" Masses Party and currently is a member of the WCPP Central Committee. Kim Song-sik, former head of the Masses Party propaganda bureau, has been devoted to research and writing at the National Policy Research Assn. since the dissolution of the party. Chon Hui-sik, former chairman of the Inchon North-A district chapter, who once was famous for the "Chon Hui-sik plan," remains a WCPP member.

Kim Nak-chun, former adviser to the Masses Party and director of the campaign headquarters at the time of the 14th general election, was convicted in the 1992 "South Korean Workers Party" case and sentenced to life in prison. He is currently in the Kwangju Prison. Son Pyong-son, former chairman of the Socho district chapter, and Choe Ho-kyong, former chief of the secretariat of the Songnam district chapter, were also sentenced to life in prison in the same case. They are currently in the Chonju and Taejon Prisons respectively. Worst was the case of Kwon Tu-yong. The former adviser to the Masses Party was charged with visiting North Korea to obtain funds for the Masses Party and, while in custody, died in prison. The cause of death remains a mystery. Authorities then announced that he was distraught and committed suicide by hanging.

Now, the two persons expected to catch the "last train" are none other than Chang Ki-pyo and Yi Chae-o. They recently issued statements scathingly denouncing Reps. An Mu-hyok and Kwak Chong-chul for their criticisms against the Masses Party. Yi Chae-o, whom Yi U-chae once referred to as "reform preacher," has been known touring government offices lecturing on reform and is commonly acknowledged to be the next target of recruiting [by the DLP]. Chang Ki-pyo's position is a little different. Those close to him are of the opinion that he will not join the DLP easily. He is currently president of the 21st Century Social Development Research Association and, until recently, was board chairman of the Tongjak Cultural Center.

Thus, top leaders of the Masses Party who once shared their fate aboard the same ship have all gone their ways in a fashion so diverse. If there is anything in common at all, it would be that each of them is still experimenting in his own way. When will they end experimenting and groping and get on with practice toward a common goal?

"Masses Party Failure Is Not Failure of Progressive Party"

The WCPP, which claims to carry on the mantle of the Masses Party, clings to its plan for a party of its own. Why does it persist in reviving a progressive party that was declared "failed" and bankrupt by all? I interviewed No Hoe-chan, chairman of the WCPP, on this point:

[Question] What do you think about those leaders who have joined the DLP?

[No Hoe-chan] "I am shocked. Morally, it was a heavy blow for me. Politicians should have a sense of responsibility. They should keep their integrity for history and the masses. If the ship sinks, the captain should go down with it."

[Q] Do you agree that the Masses Party failed?

[No] "Yes, I do."

[Q] In that case, why do you persist in the progressive party movement?

[No] "I don't think that the failure of the Masses Party is the failure of the progressive party movement. Conservative parties can hardly represent the interests and demands of the masses. Essentially, nothing has changed. The objective situation is still strongly demanding a progressive party."

[Q] Do you plan to stick to the same method?

[No] "No, I don't. The method should change. We will be flexible to promote solidarity with as many forces as possible. We know that ideologically it means an extremely wide spectrum. What we are saying is that, to clear the way, progressive forces should be the first to unite."

[Q] Some say that contents of progress have changed ...

[No] "What they say is true. Clearly, things are changing rapidly. Fewer people would be able to give a definite answer today if asked 'what is your ideology?' We don't believe that an individualistic society that promotes competition and puts greater value on 'money' than on humanity can be our model."

When I asked about an alternative, Chairman No Hoe-chan said "it is difficult to answer that question," adding "we all are in anguish."

If there was a lesson learned from the costly failure of the Masses Party, it was that a "party of our own" formula does not work. Then, has the alliance of pro-democracy forces succeeded? Can there be a way that is principled and yet realistic for conversion into a political force?

DMM forces have so far experimented in front movements, affiliations with conservative parties and in a party of themselves. A conclusion that could be drawn from these experiments could basically be as follows:

First, the strength of pro-democracy forces is quite feeble. They can hardly survive unless they join with larger forces. They need a flexible posture open for solidarity more than an emphasis on their unique position. Second, it takes considerable time and effort before pro-democracy forces can display political leadership. They must establish political leadership centering on forces that have taken root in all strata through mass movements. Third, "conversion into a political force" centering on ideology is impossible. It has to be a party for the masses that represent the diverse interests and demands of the public. Fourth, there must be leaders trusted by the public. Only then can the party have its center around which to build its forces. Fifth, pro-democracy forces need to be recognized as a trustworthy political entity within a coalition movement. To that end, it needs to have leadership with policy alternatives.

In this connection, it could be a meaningful thing to examine the principles and method of the "conversion to a political force" movement of Chonminnyon, which is said to be the legitimate successor to the dissident movement. Pak Ki-hak, its policy director, explained:

"A political party of our own is not possible at the moment. But we are in anguish over how we should conduct the DMM camp's political activities in the conservative sphere. When, and under what circumstances, a party of our own will become possible should be determined after examining both the subjective conditions of the DMM camp and objective realities. While it is possible for the pro-democracy camp to go for a coalition with a conservative party, it has to face the obvious limits in voicing its own demands. At the moment, it is most urgent to strengthen and develop front movements with priority."

Many people are hoping that in the local elections scheduled for 1995, political parties and public organizations, mass organizations and citizen groups, will be cooperating with one another with proper tactics. They want to see problems solved systematically through small experiments. How the people who are anxious for progress should respond to the demands of history and the times ... this cannot but be the anguish of everyone.

"If It Is Possible to Enter, More People Should Enter": An Interview with Yi U-chae, Acting Chairman of the Kuro-B District Chapter of the DLP

When Yi U-chae, former chairman of the Masses Party, joined the DLP, many reacted by saying "After all ... ." They did not take it as shocking as the Kim Mun-su case was. The reason: Yi's imminent affiliation with the DLP had been rumored for some time already and Yi himself was known taking it as no big deal. Nevertheless, it was a bombshell, obviously, for a person who once headed a progressive party joined the ruling party. Yi U-chae had put up the sign of the Masses Party with his own hands and he now took it down—and put the DLP sign on himself. I was not sure if it was proper for me to say to him "congratulations"; after some hesitation, I just said "You must be busy."

[Question] Mr Yi, in the 1992 general election, you ran from here (Kuro-B District) as Masses Party candidate. Now you have changed your ship to the DLP. How did your supporters react to it?

[Yi U-chae] "They all said I did the right thing. They say that the reason I was not elected in 1992 was because I ran from the Masses Party. If I had run from the DLP, or as an independent at least, I would have been elected more than a hundred percent, they say. I expect to lose some of the younger voters though—about 3,000 votes, I think."

[Q] The platform put out then by the Masses Party was a very progressive one. Do you still support it in substance?

[Yi] "I am a progressionist in the true sense of the word. How could you call it progress to cling to bigoted principles while the times are changing? It is not being progressive but conservative. The substance of progress has changed. Conventional progress meant social democracy centering on the working classes. Today, thanks to advances in science and technology, the white-collar ratio has grown further in the composition of the working classes. Moreover, the interest of the worker has shifted from the wage and working conditions to consumption and environment. At a time of diversification like this, I don't believe that it is right to stick to a lopsided ideology."

[Q] Don't you think that your decision to join the DLP helped propagate the sort of values like "all is well that ends well"?

[Yi] "I criticized the three-party merger in 1990. I was not alone to do so. Choe Hyong-u, who was close to Mr Kim Yong-sam, also criticized it. As the old force of authoritarianism found itself difficult to stay in power on its own, it joined hands with the Reunification Democratic Party through the merger. But the civilian government and the three-party merger are two different things. As for me, I think that the civilian government is precisely the government of the Kim Yong-sam Democratic Party. Since its start, the civilian government has demonstrated itself as entirely different from all its predecessors. When I joined the DLP, people denounced me as 'betrayer' or 'turncoat' but I thought they were unreasonable. When the DLP decided to bring in a person like me, it had its reasons. It suggests the DP's progressive color and expectations of me in pushing reform. I believe that the more people there are like me who join the DLP, the better."

[Q] You have joined the DLP at a time its reform program is suffering setbacks. From this fact, some are skeptical of your "will for reform."

[Yi] "As you know, Mr Chong Chu-yong some time ago asserted personal rights concerning one's image. But I am not even in the to assert my rights concerning my name. I swear that I made no lobbying for my entry into the DLP. They looked into the rate of support for me in my constituency and found it at about 65%. Then, they probably decided that I was a good bet. Meanwhile, what is it that people call integrity? In the days of Japanese rule or dictatorship, it indeed meant abandoning integrity if you compromised without waging a struggle. Today, however, we live in the age of civilian government. How could it be abandoning integrity to join and work in a party that is most reform-oriented? It is foolish if one tries to enter where he cannot possibly enter, and it is equally silly if he does not enter where he can enter."

[Q] What is your plan for the future?

[Yi] "I will be 60 years old next year. Since I have worked on agricultural problems all my life, I am resolved to devote the rest of my life to establishing and implementing correct agricultural policies. Furthermore, I will strive to expand the influence of progressive positions inside and outside the party. Only when someone inside takes the lead for it, can those struggling outside draw inspiration from it. Don't you think so?"

Laid out on his desk in his small office were books such as "Laws on Political Funds" and "Political Party Law and Political Party Management Regulations" published by the DLP. Yi U-cha, still doing his political experiments, from one extremity to another, and from a party of his own to affiliation with the ruling party, is full of self-confidence in his latest experiment. Whether it will fail again or succeed remains to be seen. But at least one thing is certain and it is that a poignant question has been fired at him. History is asking him what he views as failure or success.

"The Perception Toward the Kim Yong-sam Regime Should Change": An Interview with Chong Tae-yun, Acting Chairman of the Tobong-B District Chapter of the DLP

Chong Tae-yun is better known to people by his former title—director of the policy division of Kyongsillyon—than as chairman of a DLP district chapter which he is. He has another familiar title that follows him everywhere like a "yoke" on his neck—i.e., former spokesman of the Masses Party. A dissident-turned-progressive party leader, and now a key citizen movement brain-turned ruling party district chapter chairman, Chong Tae-yun has been doing colorful political experiments. What did prompt him to join the DLP? Let's see what he has to say on why his final choice was the DLP.

[Question] What do you think is the reason the DLP picked you?

[Chong Tae-yun] "I don't know for sure, but there must have been a reason. Probably, they took me for my track record as a reformist in my dissident days and in the Masses Party and Kyongsillyon."

[Q] Unity and solidarity of the dissident camp is a more urgent task than strengthening the DLP, isn't it?

[Chong] "I believe that dissidents should be rational and change. I also feel that it is worthwhile for people like us to get realistically involved with reforms that are under way currently or should be carried out in the future."

[Q] Why do you think the Masses Party failed?

[Chong] "I am sure there were a number of reasons, including that leaders were not capable enough and that there was a mistake made in setting the course of the party. There were of course the effects of objective factors, such as the deep-seated rejection of progressive elements and interregional confrontation, but the Masses Party itself was more responsible for its failure. After all, it miscalculated the flow of the times. That was the biggest reason, I think."

[Q] In your view, is it impossible for dissidents to run a political party of their own?

[Chong] "It has become even more difficult now, I think. More than anything else, the fact that the movement failed time and again already has made it difficult to get people to believe in its success."

[Q] What differences do you see between the DLP and the DP?

[Chong] "I see no big differences. The reason is that President Kim Yong-sam, who is virtually leading the DLP, and those who represent the present DP leadership fought together in the past, sharing the same political position. I believe that it is historically correct to say that they share the main root."

[Q] What is your view of the Kim Yong-sam government's reform program?

[Chong] "I disagree with the argument that 'reform is the task of a specific regime.' My point is that reform in our age is an issue transcending the level of this or that regime. If one should view reform as the business of a certain regime, he would be committing the folly of attacking reform itself by attacking the regime. Many things that we tried to achieve in our pro-democracy movement in the past are now being achieved by the Kim Yong-sam regime. Therefore, we should recognize that what is important is the success of reform."

[Q] Do you expect that those who supported you in the past will still support you?

[Chong] "I cannot answer that question off hand, but I am hoping that they will understand and support me in regard to the choice I made."

[Q] What sort of reform do you think you will be working for in the DLP?

[Chong] "I have not yet made up my mind on it. I plan to explore positively what I can do. I will strive to put in practice the citizen-movement position and policy views which I had developed and refined in Kyongsillyon."

[Q] What do you think is the most important virtue that politicians should have?

[Chong] "A strong sense of solidarity and responsibility toward the people who live in the same age, more than anything else."

[Q] Do you think that you have been politically consistent and acting in a responsible manner?

[Chong] "I think that it was in a way inevitable that I chose realistic politics for myself. From now on, politics will be divided into two camps—rational reformist forces and sensible conservative forces. In that overall political trend, it is not unreasonable, I think, that I decided to join the DLP."

[Q] Are you determined to share your fortune with the DLP no matter what? [Chong] "Of course, I am."

Answering the last question, Chong Tae-yun burst into a roar of laughter. Perhaps, because it was such a stereotyped question. Then, he added, "I will be happy if you watch me with kindness." I find it a difficult task to criticize a person who has made a decision on his course when others are groping for an answer for themselves—even if it may prove a wrong choice. This is the very point many people find perplexing today.

* Dissidents in the DP

952C0040B Seoul MAL in Korean Nov 94 pp 74-77

[By reporter Kim Kyong-hwan: "Dissidents Who Joined the DP ... Where Do They Stand Now: An Interim Assessment of Dissidents-Turned-Politicians]

[FBIS Translated Text]

Should Be Born Again

"I am quite critical of them. In short, those dissidents-turned-politicians should be born again."

This was the opening remark by a Mr Yi, a staff member of an assemblyman, who is familiar with the Gathering For Reform [GFR]. To the question "Why do you think so?" he said, conclusively: "Because they are supposed to be different from ordinary politicians." Initially, I felt that he might be too pessimistic; at the end of the interview, however, I found myself in agreement with him. Therefore, the conclusion of this article is evident already. It is that dissidents who have joined the DP should get their act together and work harder.

Why? They are not just politicians but people who "chose the method called politics to fulfill the cause of democratization and reunification." If they had joined the opposition party for career purposes, they could be dismissed as "just the same as the old-fashioned conservative politicians." However, the situation is different, and should be different, with the ex-dissidents. They had set out to bury the corrupt politics and bring in a new one.

At the moment, it is difficult to assess correctly the performances of the former dissidents who are now working in the DP. It is because their experiment is still in progress. But a look into them is possible. It is the right of the people who had given them a great deal of their understanding and support. The appraisals for individual ex-dissidents in the DP are largely in accord, except for differences in nuance. Based on a poll of assemblymen's staff members and DP sources, the ratings for them are not more than 50 points out of a possible 100. It denotes a very ambiguous level, meaning neither too good nor too bad, and in case it falls below 50, it means a rating more negative than positive.

How much have the ex-dissidents in the DP represented the position of pro-democracy forces in the conservative camp? Answers vary depending on who gives them. Pak Ki-hak, director of the Chonminnyon policy division, who is rather critical of them, said: "Although they have presented a relatively clear-cut image compared with conservative politicians, I can hardly say that they have acted in accordance with the principles of the DMM. It is because their decision to join the DP was made on an individual basis. It was not a decision organizationally coordinated." Meanwhile, Cho Hyon-ho, chairman of the GFR youth committee, gave a relatively positive assessment, saying: "The fact itself that they have secured their foothold in the DP is a success. Of course there is room for criticism, but if they are given time to solve problems, they will fully be able to fulfill their duties."

There is no such thing in the world as a 100% success or a 100% failure. All related factors need to be taken into account before reaching a final assessment. And in this connection, the outcome can be influenced by how the criteria are set. In this sense, it is deemed helpful to take a look at their primary purposes for which they shifted their weight from the dissident camp to the conservative opposition party.

For "Clean Politics"

It is immediately after the June, 1987, pro-democracy resistance that debate began in our society on the issue of building the pro-democracy camp into a "political force." Thanks to the great political offensive of the masses, the pro-democracy forces came to control the nation's political flow for the first time since the 19 April, 1960, student revolution. As "political power" came within their reach, however, they were split over how to materialize it. Issues were multiple but could be summed up into one, namely, "how the dissident camp should self-assess its strength." Forces positive about the strength demanded the founding of an independent party, while those negative about it insisted on cooperation with a conservative opposition party. And those who concluded that they could support neither side, stayed behind and carried on dissident activities.

Those we often call "former dissidents" in the DP were of the opinion that in order to strengthen the DMM, activists should cooperate with an opposition party of pro-democracy nature. However, it does not necessarily mean that all of them acted in concert. They joined the DP in a variety of ways. In the case of Rep. Yi Chol, it was on an individual basis, while Rep. Yi Pu-yong and his group entered the DP collectively. But the general opinion is that they can be divided roughly into two groups.

The first group is Pyongminnyon, which joined the DP after going through the process of organizational debate. Pyongminnyon is an organized group of ex-dissidents who embarked on conservative politics in early 1988—

right after the opposition's defeat in the 1987 presidential election—under the banner of "Revamp the Pyongmindang [Party for Peace and Democracy, PPD]." At the time, the PPD promised Pyongminnyon a share of party power, and Pyongminnyon produced 13 assemblymen in the 26 April general election that year. However, for the fact that they were under the influence of Kim Tae-chung, they can hardly be viewed as pure dissidents.

The other group is Minju Yonhap. This group merged with the DP on 3 February 1991, with the two declared goals, "merger of the opposition camp and political reform." Thus, 68 dissident figures including Yi Pu-yong embarked on conservative politics. Minju Yonhap had presented a "plan on a political party project" to the Chonminnyon convention on 4 March 1990; when the plan was voted down, Minju Yonhap broke with Chonminnyon. It can be said that it was after the [1992] 14th general election that ex-dissidents secured their position within the DP.

Thus, leaders of the three groups—Minju Yonhap, Sinminnyon and Pyongminnyon—entered the political sphere in force, forming a new flow. Besides Chairman Yi Pu-yong (Kangdong-A District), Minju Yonhap produced assemblymen including Yu In-tae (Tobong-A), Pak Kye-tong (Kangso-A) and Won Hye-yong (Puchon-Central). It also had 14 nonparliamentary-member district chapter chairman, such as Ko Yong-ha (Nowon-A) and Kim Min-sok (Yongdungpo-B). It thus built a firm power base in the party.

Pyongminnyon, too, had been working for advances into the National Assembly since the 13th general election. And in the 14th general election, Yi Kil-che, chairman of the DP external cooperation committee (Kwangju-North B) and Chang Yong-tal (Wansan, Chonju) were elected to their first term, while Pak Song-mu (Muan, South Cholla), Kim Yong-chin (Kangjin, Wando) and Chong Sang-yong (Kwangju West-A) were reelected. Then came Yim Chae-chong (Nowon-B), who scored an upset victory through a lawsuit. Pyongminnyon also came to have eight nonparliamentary-member district chapter chairmen, including Ko Kwang-chin (Tongdaemun-B).

From Sinminnyon, three were elected in the 14th general election, including Yi U-chong (National Constituency) and Kim Mal-yong, former Supreme Committee member (National Constituency) and Sin Kye-ryun (Songbuk-B). Strictly speaking, however, it is in a sense difficult to call them ex-dissidents. Minju Yonhap and Pyongminnyon formed the Political Gathering for Democratic Reform on 10 December 1992. There are also such prominent figures as Yi Chol, Yi Hae-chan, Che Chong-ku, Kim Chong-kil and No Mu-hyon, who demonstrated their new aspects in the 13th National Assembly. They are all ex-dissidents.

Being Imbued With Conservative Politics?

Why did they decide to join the DP at such a high cost, the split of the movement? Although there were slight differences among individuals involved, it can be said that their basic goal was to materialize a democratic party based on popular support, taking advantage of the new domain of legal political activity expanded since 1987.

In an interview with MAL in 1992, Yi Pu-yong, GFR chairman and a leading figure of dissidents-turned-politicians, explained why he launched into conservative politics and said: "It is because I concluded that dissidents have grown enough to present themselves as a political force and that the public is expecting them to do so." According to him, his immediate target was to form a progressive bloc within the conservative opposition party. Thus penetrating conservative politics, the "activist camp" displayed spectacular performances in the beginning.

The public witnessing their performances in the 13th National Assembly literally felt a shockingly fresh breeze. During a National Assembly hearing, Chong Chu-yong, president of the Hyundai Group, who was testifying, was upbraided to his face by Rep. No Mu-hyon, while former President Chon Tu-hwan was bitterly affronted by Rep. Yi Hae-chan. At the time of the 14th general election, too, the public extended enthusiastic support to those politicians for their will to realize "clean politics."

At the time of the 14th general election, Rep. Yi Hae-chan made a public disclosure of the sources and uses of his political funds, while Rep, Sin Kye-ryun further developed his supporter groups and turned them into solid political fund sources. Those things were well received by voters. They also improved the quality of their parliamentary activities to a point where they began presenting policy alternatives, instead of the "shout and be photographed" type of floor tactics. This also can be viewed as a great achievement. Practicing self-control, they avoided treating and being treated, by not visiting restaurants and golf courses. They made pains-taking efforts to develop programs which they could share with constituents and, as a result, came up with a number of plans, including those on local nursery schools (Sin Kye-ryun) and legal information centers (Yi Pu-yong). Their morality and originality and their sincere attitude for protecting the interests of the masses brought many people to pin greater hopes on new politics.

Such achievements by dissidents-turned-politicians are recognized even by people who have been critical of them. However, the GFR, which began showing signs of division at the time of the DP convention in March 1993, has lately unveiled its limitations in connection with the rumored comeback of Kim Tae-chung, board chairman of the Asia Pacific Foundation. Their behavior suggesting a recurrence of conservatism has become a cause of concern for people around them, generating derisive comments such as "there is no remedy for politicians." They have now run against the high wall of real politics. How will they succeed in "surviving"? And further, how will they build the pro-democracy forces into a political force? It surely is a matter of concern.

Assemblymen Wavering in Factional Politics

A Mr Choe, another staff member of an assemblyman, said that the GFR is walking backward. He continued:

"While the GFR impressed a good individual image upon the public, it failed to strength its internal solidarity. It also failed to expand its reform-oriented position and, as a result, circumscribed its own influence in the party."

Explaining reasons why this occurred, he stressed that "they lacked common ground ideologically and were too busy individually making a political living." Prescribing his remedy for the situation, he added: "If the GFR is to fulfill its historic mission, members should not cling to their parliamentary seats. Instead they should assume a selfless posture by devoting themselves to the GFR cause." Among evidence of what he referred to as their behavior suggesting a recurrence of old-fashioned politics is the fact that they allow themselves to be easily engulfed in factional politics led by bosses. The result is that there are unfounded rumors circulating on who belongs to which faction.

Mr Choe's comment has something to do with the position of each faction that became absolutely clear in connection with the question of Kim Tae-chung's comeback that has surged as a concern of political quarters. It also points to a problem fueled by the shelving of the opposition-camp merger debate as a result of internal troubles in the Sinmin Party. Rumors circulating had it that Kim Tae-chung proposed a panopposition merger, even including Fifth and Sixth Republic forces, and coincidentally Naewoe Munje Yonguhoe [Internal External Affairs Research Society], a group belonging to the Tonggyodong faction, rapidly expanded its strength. Chong Tae-chol, member of the DP Supreme Committee, joined the group, altering the balance of power in the DP.

Factions in the DP can be divided roughly into two. The mainstream is led by Naewoe Munje Yonguhoe and Chairman Yi Ki-taek's Tongil Sanha-hoe [United Land Society], while the nonmainstream is led by Kim Sang-hyon, member of the Supreme Committee. According to DP sources, members of the GFR whose intraparty influence is limited and internal unity weak are preoccupied with individual activities selling themselves to factions they have chosen. In extreme cases, they are secretly dealing with the Tonggyodong faction while ostensibly asserting that "we must overcome Kim Tae-chung." Voices of self-criticism are loud, saying that as long as the influence of Kim Tae-chung continues, the GFR can hardly establish its own position.

Some say that the "elitism" of ex-dissidents is spawning a sense of incongruity in the political sphere. Those people say that individually they are all exceedingly gifted and capable but that is about the "only thing" they have. In a nutshell, politics means expanding power. Even with conservative politicians with different views, they are expected to understand and embrace them; in actuality, however, they would turn their backs on them, they say. For instance, we often hear that the GFR is doing a good job promoting "external cooperation" but the truth is that their cooperation is always among themselves.

For instance, there was the following case. A group led by ex-dissident assemblymen decided to go on an overseas trip. There would have been no problems if each had paid his share of expenses. But they decided to chip in for supreme committee members. It was after a great deal of controversies and disputes that they obtained "support" and made the trip. This is the sort of behavior that hurts confidence in the dissidents-turned-politicians. The few problems listed here could be extremely trivial and minor; they could be simply dismissed in the cases of conservative politicians. With ex-dissidents, however, "reform" is their life line as politicians. It can be compared to the case of a priest committing excesses in drinking, who would be subjected to scrutiny more severely than other people. The GFR needs to bend an ear to the criticism that it should reform itself to begin with. The point is that it should boldly do away with a narrow pattern of behavior to prevent itself from becoming a profit-seeking or assemblyman-making group.

To Translate Potential Into Reality

Rep. Yi Pu-yong once said in this journal, MAL: "The GFR failed to act in unity and failed to display its strength when it had the opportunity to make changes in the power relationships in the party. The GFR is a political bridgehead gained by the progressive forces for their 30 years of struggle. Reformist forces in the DP should recognize the historic significance of this fact."

One can feel their anguish about the historical responsibility. To the same question as asked to Yi, Kim Kun-tae, chairman of the National Council for Democratic Reform and Democratic Government, said:

"DMM forces failed to develop a united ideology and objective as they entered the conservative party. In other words, they failed to serve the tactical purposes of the dissident forces. Also, the strong power of real politics is obstructing the growth of the 'reformist group.' However, if the group establishes its goals in a practical fashion and moves forward step by step, it can hope for successes, although circumstances are adverse for it."

Thus, there are no differences in the way they view the GFR from inside and outside the DP. In other words, the GFR and the dissident camp recognize each other's existence; they are in the relationship of coexistence. They also recognize the fact that it is extremely important for future political developments that the GFR fulfill its mission.

Pak U-sop, DP deputy spokesman, said: "The entry of ex-dissidents into the DP drastically changed the political climate. And by securing a parliamentary bridgehead in the DP, they established a foothold for developing a political entity. It is true that they have problems in the areas of leadership and organizational management, but I think that they will be able to overcome them gradually. The next year or two will be crucial for them." Pak then predicted that they will be quite successful in the coming local elections if they campaign in alliance with public organizations.

The debut of dissidents-turned-politicians is clearly a noteworthy development in the nation's political history. It is also felt that their role and achievements are equally evident. On the other hand, there have been suggestions that they restrict their role so narrowly that they are failing to catch up with the broad flow of the current. Yi Kwang-chae, researcher of the Local Autonomy Business Center, said: "Party politics is important but sometimes it represents an extremely small sphere. The share of Parliament in the nation's politics is at most 2 or 3 out of a possible 10. If one should mistakenly think that it—the small part—is everything there is to politics, it would make him impatient. It is necessary to promote macroscopic, long-term views in politics."

Nam Kun-u, GFR chief secretary, also said that "this is time for some serious self-examination." He advised, earnestly: "In the past, we used to fight one another and debate heatedly. But these days we are in a slump, generally. With such a passive, 'self-protective' attitude, we cannot win the public's support. Even now, leaders should recognize the gravity of problems facing us and search for some principled and rational answers. Now is the time we should show the masses our posture of devotion and responsibility for them."

Ex-dissident assemblymen can hardly resolve problems by merely pleading the difficulty of circumstances surrounding them. They are required to show a responsible attitude by looking into themselves for the cause of problems. As someone has said, they may physically be a member of a political party but spiritually should return to where they came from, the activist camp. Heavy indeed is the burden on the shoulders of the dissidents-turned-politicians. Many people are extending "critical support" to their political experiment.

Burma

Army Troops Occupy Manerplaw

BK2801090995 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Jan 95 p A4

[Report by Yindi Loetcharoenchok]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In a major military victory over one of the world's oldest guerrilla movements, the Burmese army overran the ethnic Karen headquarters yesterday evening after the besieged Karen forces burnt it down and tried unsuccessfully to defend it.

A senior Karen official confirmed the loss at 10 pm last night, saying the Burmese troops are now occupying Manerplaw, which is opposite Thailand's Tha Song Yang district of Tak province.

The fall of Manerplaw is a big military and political setback not only for the Karen National Union (KNU), but the whole ethnic and Burmese democracy movements, which had used the stronghold to carry out an international political campaign against the Burmese junta.

Manerplaw, on the west bank of the Moei River, was home to a number of Burmese dissident groups including the All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF) and the exiled parallel government of elected MP Dr Sein Win, a cousin of detained 1991 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

"The loss of Manerplaw, which is the heart of the opposition movement and symbol of democracy, will cripple both the KNU, other ethnic groups and the opposition alike. They have lost the best protective location," said one Thai border source.

KNU and Thai border sources confirmed yesterday that the Karen forces had already changed their military strategy from defending a static stronghold into small hit-and-run guerrilla units.

The defeated Karen troops had been ordered to dispersed into small units to carry out guerrilla warfare and most were still scattered in the surrounding rugged mountainous terrain near Manerplaw.

Karen leader Gen Bo Mya ordered the destruction of all structures in Manerplaw late on Thursday night as the Burmese forces drew near.

"If we have to leave, we don't want the Slorc [State Law and Order Restoration Council] to have any convenient shelters to stay in," a senior KNU official said in an interview last night.

The official, who asked not to be named, said the Karen troops had to abandon Manerplaw "as it would be suicidal to hold on if we don't have reinforcements and resupply. If we hold on we will suffer more casualties and we will have nothing to gain."

The KNU and Thai sources confirmed that an unidentified number of Karen forces were heading southwards towards the Burmese frontline of Naw Hta, about 30 km from Manerplaw.

Manerplaw was overrun by several hundred Burmese troops equipped with assault rifles and 81 mm mortars. They managed to cross the powerful Salween River and penetrate the Karen frontlines due to the assistance and guidance of KNU defectors, who are familiar with the terrain and KNU military tactics.

The sources could not verify the casualties on either side but believed that the number was small. The KNU official said that despite the fall of Manerplaw, the KNU movement would continue.

"The fall of Manerplaw does not mean the end of the road for the KNU. We can set up headquarters in another place and can carry on our struggle together with other opposition groups," he said.

The sources also confirmed that dissident Burmese students had already abandoned Daung Gwin, their stronghold on the Salween River about 50 km north of Manerplaw.

ABSDF leader Dr Naing Aung admitted Thursday night that with the seizure of Manerplaw "it will be difficult for the students to carry on our struggle by ourselves".

He said he had a contingency plan if Manerplaw falls but said he had first to discuss it with other student leaders.

The Burmese army's assault against the KNU is drawing strong international criticism against the Burmese junta which broke its self-proclaimed unilateral ceasefire against armed ethnic movements.

A statement released by the US State Department yesterday said the "US Government calls upon the Government of Burma to act in accordance with its own oft-stated intent to resolve its difficulties with ethnic minorities peacefully".

KNU Vows Continued Battle Against SLORC

BK2901094495 Bangkok THE SUNDAY NATION in English 29 Jan 95 pp A1, A2

[Report by Yindi Loetcharoenchok]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Embattled Karen guerrillas have vowed to carry on their 46-year-old armed struggle against the Rangoon government saying the Burmese capture of their Manerplaw headquarters on Friday night "does not weaken its determination" to continue fighting for peace, freedom, and democracy.

The Karen National Union (KNU) stated in a press release issued on Friday night that it remains committed to peace talks, but only if these also include discussions on a political settlement. However, the Burmese junta—the State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc) is continuing to insist that it will only discuss a ceasefire.

Meanwhile, private relief agencies said the Burmese assaults have already driven about 6,000 Karen refugees into Thailand. The number is rising steadily and the agencies are expecting to have to cope with up to 10,000 people displaced by the fall of Manerplaw.

Thailand's Third Army Region Commander Lt Gen Surachet Dechatwong yesterday made an inspection tour of the border area to evaluate the situation.

The KNU statement said the fall of Manerplaw, a stronghold on the west bank of the Moei River, was a "military setback," but said it was convinced that out of this loss, "the KNU will emerge united and strengthened."

"The KNU remains committed to this approach. The fall of Manerplaw, while representing a military setback, does not weaken the KNU's determination to continue the struggle for genuine peace, democracy and freedom for all Burma's peoples, with the emphasis on political means," the press release said.

The Karen group described how they had been forced to abandon their 21-year-old stronghold, which also served as the headquarters for ethnic and political opponents of the Rangoon regime including the exiled parallel government of elected MP Dr Sein Win. Dr Sein is a cousin of Burmese political prisoner Aung San Suu Kyi, now in her sixth year of house arrest at her Rangoon home.

The KNU said the Burmese capture of Manerplaw, which survived a similar major Burmese offensive in 1991-92, was the result of Slorc- instigated religious conflicts within the KNU which eventually caused a split within the Karen movement in December.

A group of about 400 Karen Buddhist mutineers have accused the Christian-led KNU of discriminating against Buddhist religious activities and not promoting Buddhist members who far outnumber Christian members of the movement.

The mutineers defected soon after signing a peace pact and agreeing to end violent clashes with the KNU in early December.

"On 21st December, however, the Democratic Karen Buddhist Organization (DKBO), with its own army—the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA), hostile to the KNU—was created by the Slorc," and reneged on the peace agreement, the statement said.

After KNU military operations to recapture a strategic location on the confluence of the Moei and Salween rivers from rival Karen forces, the DKBO "entered into open alliance with the Slorc," it said.

The KNU said the defectors were familiar with its frontline defences and military strategy and had collaborated with and guided Burmese troops in the assault on Manerplaw.

"After 46 years of struggle the KNU recognizes that here there been many victories and reversals. The KNU is convinced that out of the loss of Manerplaw the KNU will emerge united and strengthened," it added.

KNU officials and dissident Burmese students have rejected as "sheer lies" the Slorc's claims, that it was merely assisting the DKBA in the assault.

"How could DKBA have deployed so many troops and heavy artillery? It has no more than 400 troops. How could they have staged a three- pronged offensive against the KNU?" asked a KNU lieutenant colonel on condition of anonymity.

Karen and Thai border officials said about 18 battalions from the Burmese army—numbering some 10,000 soldiers—from the 22nd, 33th, 44th and 66th divisions were deployed in the assault on Manerplaw. Only one battalion, numbering about 400-500 troops actually penetrated the Karen frontlines from Northwest to capture Manerplaw, they added.

The officials confirmed yesterday that the DKBA had raised its flag above Manerplaw. They said heavy shelling by the Burmese on Kawmura, another KNU stronghold opposite Thailand's Mae Sot district of Tak, has continued unabated since early December.

KNU leader Gen Bo Mya ordered the destruction of all residential structures in Manerplaw on Thursday night to prevent the Slorc from establishing itself there. He also ordered the evacuation of about 3,000 civilians and political leaders from Manerplaw to a safe area in Thailand.

While Thai officials said they cannot say exactly how many refugees have crossed the border into Thailand, private relief agencies said they are expecting as many as 10,000 people.

Aid agencies told THE NATION yesterday that about 6,000 refugees, including people who fled Manerplaw, have crossed into Thailand. Another 3,000 refugees were reported to have crossed the Salween River into Thailand from Daung Gwin—an area about 50 km north of Manerplaw also captured by the Burmese.

An aid worker said relief agencies are ready to move in to provide humanitarian assistance to the refugees but only on a "short-term basis." He said he still did not know what stance Thailand intended to take towards this latest cross-border influx.

Khachatphai Burutphat, deputy chief of the National Security Council, told THE NATION yesterday that there had been no change in Thailand's humanitarian policy and refugee relief measures. The government, he said, allows temporary refuge to those fleeing the conflict until such time as the situation inside Burma improves enough to permit them to return home safely. But armed troops are not allowed to enter the Kingdom, he pointed out.

"Thailand has never had a policy of pushing refugees back across the border nor of repatriating them by force," he added.

The government also permits refugees access to humanitarian aid and has clear guidelines on how nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) can assist refugees. "They (NGOs) can give humanitarian assistance to the refugees," said the NSC chief.

Fall of Manerplaw, KNU Division Explained

Part I

BK3101055395 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese 0415 GMT 29 Jan 95

[First installment of an article by "a Karen national" from 29 January MYANMAR ALIN and KYEMON: "Which Way KNU?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learned that Manerplaw, where the KNU [Karen National Union] general headquarters is based, fell on 27 January 1995. The KNU Manerplaw headquarters was attacked and captured by a 4,000-strong force led by Warrant Officer Kyaw Than, Major Kyaw Tun Naing, and Brigadier General Pya Pya of the DKBA [Democratic Karen Buddhist Army], the armed wing of the DKBO, Democratic Karen Buddhist Organization, which is a splinter group of the KNU. The KNDO [Karen National Defense Organization], which was formed on 17 February 1947 to serve the interests of the Karen nationals, has now disintegrated due to poor leadership by Nga Mya [derogatory name for General Bo Mya, the KNU leader].

The KNU was once a strong organization politically and militarily. It also became a big force historically. Manerplaw, the headquarters of the KNU, is an internationally well-known region. Other armed organizations apart from the KNU have their headquarters there too. But, when Manerplaw fell, the KNU and its allies have attained a far more pitiful situation than their enemies. It has been a long time since a problem arose between the Manerplaw headquarters and the KNU. Although the conflict between the majority of followers who wanted to make peace and the minority leaders who are selfish and businessmen-like did not appear to be severe, it was on the verge of explosion. Some believe that the December 1994 crisis is a religious conflict, while some spread rumors that it was the work of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC]. In fact, the end was brought about by Nga Mya and his cronies, who lied about their desire to make peace. In reality the separation of the DKBO from the KNU is just a small fuse to the KNU, which was about to explode.

The Salween River flowing from north to south meets the Thaungyin River flowing from southeast to northwest near Thu Mae Hta Village. Manerplaw camp is located not far from Thu Mae Hta Village. The Salween River is the best natural barrier for Manerplaw, and the international boundary line acts as a political defense. Manerplaw has been the birthplace of all kinds of terrorist activities for quite a long time. Although most KNU camps faced Tatmadaw [Defense Services] offensives, Manerplaw has been spared from Tatmadaw offensives for a long time. In early 1992, a Tatmadaw offensive threatened the Manerplaw region. Sleeping Dog Hill and other defensive camps situated along the west bank of the Salween River fell in March 1992. Nga Mya attempted to relocate the KNU headquarters from Manerplaw, but the situation took a different turn. Lieutenant General Maung Hla [chief of forward military operations special control command], who was then visiting Pa-an, announced on 28 April 1992 the cessation of all military offensives in the Karen State. The SLORC had opened the door to peace. The sound of fighting ended in the confluence region of the Salween and Thaungyin Rivers. The Defense Services even withdrew some regiments, which could have tactically antagonized the KNU. The Karen populace were filled with anxiety over the glimmer of hope for peace. Their hopes have been fluctuating high and low. At that time, the public seemed to be satisfied and happy to not hear gunshots but they were unaware of underhanded tricks. The scenic confluence region had been peaceful and tranquil.

Sayadaw [abbot] Badanta U Thuzana from the Myainggyingu Monastery in Kamamaung is very much revered by the Karen Buddhists and is a well-known missionary. The Sayadaw, in accordance with the wishes of the villagers, sponsored the construction of a pagoda on Lay Zu Tu Hill in the confluence region. The villagers enthusiastically participated in the construction of the pagoda. The Karen Buddhists from the KNU also tried to gain merit by contributing labor and taking part in hard laborious works. The Lay Zue Tu hilltop on Naw Hta Mountain is located opposite Sleeping Dog Hill where the Defense Services is based.

Major Waw He, from the security department of the KNU General Headquarters, was accompanied by his followers and they suddenly arrived at the site of the pagoda construction and started abusing the young monks, novices, and benefactors engaged in construction activities. He beat and kicked some people and also kicked cement bags. He yelled at them and said don't you all know that this pagoda will be used as a benchmark for the Tatmadaw to fire heavy artillery at Manerplaw. You must be doing this deliberately. The KNU leader, Nga Mya, summoned the Myainggyingu Sayadaw to Manerplaw on 7 May 1993 [year as heard] and prohibited the construction of the pagoda. He prohibited them from continuing building the pagoda and asked them to leave everything and vacate the hill by 12 May. He said you Buddhists, each and every one of you, are not good, you are all useless persons. [passage indistinct]

When the armed group protested, Nga Mya changed his ways and his facial expression became pleasant. He noted hey, our KNU has freedom of religion. We close our offices on the full moon and the dark moon. It seemed like Maj. Waw He had revolted so he started preparing for his liquidation. Nga Mya detained Maj. Waw Hte. He then consoled the Sayadaw and his followers and permitted them to build the pagoda. That temporarily solved the problem. But Nga Mya accused the Myainggyingu Sayadaw (?and his followers) of trying to challenge his leadership and plotted his unscrupulous idea of exterminating them.

Nga Mya searched for a monk named U Wizana and permitted him to reside in Manerplaw. He was worshipped by members of the 6th Brigade. Nga Mya's follower, U Wizana, became famous as Rambo Monk. Nga Mya gave preference to Rambo. U Wizana is called Rambo Monk because he carries a gun and he always wears a pistol on his waist.

A sangha [Buddhist monk] conference sponsored by the Rambo Monk was held in Manerplaw from 1 to 4 March 1994. Altogether 81 sanghas from 71 monasteries attended the conference. Although the Myainggyingu abbot came to the conference he was unable to attend because he had to be admitted to a hospital in Chiang Mai for vomiting blood. The Rambo Monk, disregarding the disagreement of the abbots, formed the Kawthulay Sangha Organization [KSO] in accordance with Nga Mya's wishes. Rambo became the leader of the KSO. The Myainggyingu abbot continued his missionary work. He built the Eiksathaya Suthaungpyei Phaungdaw-u Pagoda at Thu Mae Hta Village in the confluence region and the Dathabala Chedi at the Mae Naw Daw Hill near Sleeping Dog Hill. He then established a vegetarian village of about 80 households.

Tar Thi and some of his followers, who were fed up with the KNU, took refuge at the vegetarian village and found solace in the scriptures. Ko Noo and a group from Manerplaw came and called them back. Tar Thi and his group refused to return. The vegetarian villagers and Ko Noo's group then had a dispute.

Nga Mya, who had taken a year to annihilate the Myainggyingu abbot, then started to antagonize the vegetarian village. He issued an order not to build any more houses and declared that the village is not exempted from taxes and porter conscription. He then accused the abbot of undermining the KNU strength under religious pretext. Eventually, Nga Mya alleged that Myainggyngy abbot was an intelligence agent of the SLORC.

An adviser to Bo Mya is Major Waw Hte. Nga Mya issued an ultimatum to the abbot to come to Manerplaw within 45 days from 8 October 1994 to settle the issue. The letter was written by Man Hsa. The letter from Nga Mya was hand carried by Rambo Monk and presented to the Myainggyingu abbot, who was staying at Thu Mae Hta Monastery. He threatened the abbot and said that he would be killed if he did not come to Manerplaw. The abbot said: I [words indistinct] the Defense Services. I am just carrying out missionary work sincerely. I will not be able to (?come) within 45 days as I am currently under a vow to follow a vegetarian diet. Hence, the Myainggyingu abbot replied in a refined manner. The Rambo Monk exploded in anger and said: Hey, what is the meaning of eating a vegetarian diet in a revolutionary zone. These are extraneous things.

Pauktaw monk, other monks, and benefactors who were in attendance near the Myainggyingu abbot could no longer tolerate this and got into a verbal dispute with the Rambo Monk and Rambo subsequently fled to Manerplaw. Nga Mya was furious. Meanwhile, Waw Hte and Kyaw Char, who had created the problem from the beginning, further instigated. Waw Hte is known as Nga Mya's grandson while Kyaw Char is his nephew. Nga Mya ordered Waw Hte to use force if the monk did not come after 45 days.

The Myainggyingu abbot, to illustrate his virtue for patience, came to Manerplaw to see Nga Mya on 1 November 1994. The abbot wanted to solve the problem. Nga Mya scolded the abbot saying: Stop your pagoda building activity. Dathabala Pagoda on top of Mae Naw Daw Hill could be used by the enemy to use heavy weapons. Did your god teach you to be a vegetarian? You are creating these sham pagodas to assist the SLORC. Isn't the Eiksathaya Phaungdaw-u Pagoda at the confluence of the river also a sham? I know your tricks.

Rambo Monk also threatened the abbot to please Nga Mya, saying: Whatever you do in this state, you can only do so with my permission. The abbot tolerated the rude and insulting treatment by Nga Mya and his cronies.

On 23 November 1994, Rambo Monk forcefully summoned monks who are afraid of him from nearby villages and convened an emergency meeting which passed seven resolutions. The last resolution called for the suspension of missionary work and pagoda building activity in areas of armed conflict. This amounts to religious oppression. This point was not accepted by armed Buddhist Karen nationals.

At this point, the Myainggyingu abbot understood that he could not carry out his missionary work in the confluence region. Actually, the abbot did not arrive in this area only during the SLORC era. He had been carrying out missionary work in the region for 20 years. He was able to expand his missionary work since there was no fighting following the cessation of the Defense Services military offensive. The abbot, who had carried out missionary work with sincerity, was misunderstood; he decided he no longer wanted to stay in the area and wrote a letter to his beneficiaries bidding them farewell. After that, on 1 December 1994, the abbot, accompanied by 40 monks, including Ashin Khemita from Datthabala Pagoda on top of Maw Naw Daw Hill and Ashin Kawdinnya from Eiksathaya Pagoda in Thu Mae Hta, left Thu Mae Hta Village, travelled in a motorized boat along the Salween River and returned to Myainggyingu Monastery.

The KNU 20th Battalion is directly under the command of the Manerplaw general headquarters. Kyaw He, deputy commander of the 20th Battalion and local people, who respected the Myainggyingu abbot, came to Thu Mae Hta Village to pay their obeisance. When they did not see the abbot they respected and saw only his farewell letter, they were very saddened. Warrant Officer Kyaw Than sobbed and cried when he saw the pagodas they had built with their own labor were destroyed.

The way Waw He and Kyaw Char beat up the people who built the pagoda and kicked scarce cement bags angered the Buddhists. Members of the KNU 20th Battalion followed the abbot to Myainggyingu Monastery and from 2 December 1994 blockaded the area along the Salween River between Myainggyingu and Thaw Le Hta camp. Meanwhile, Kyaw He and his man had received the report about Nga Mya's order to assassinate the abbot. The 20th Battalion members barred KNU members, including Central Committee members from travel between the Salween and Thaungyin Rivers.

Meanwhile, Kyaw He told Nga Mya that the abbot was just doing his missionary work and that he was not an agent of the SLORC. He said persecution of the abbot amounted to oppression of Buddhists and expressed his desire to enable the abbot to return to the monastery in Thu Mae Hta. They also demanded that Nga Mya settle the problem by himself.

This problem is not a conflict between Buddhists and Christians, but a conflict between Nga Mya and KNU armed members and villagers. This problem was not created by the SLORC. Nga Mya himself brought about the problem. Had he had the correct attitude, the problem at the confluence region would not have led to the fall of Manerplaw. When there was a real crisis, Nga Mya did not dare to come to Thu Mae Hta Village where Kyaw He and the Buddhist Karens were. He was afraid of being captured and blackmailed.

How is Nga Mya to solve the problem caused by his narrow mindedness, extremist outlook, interpretation of fear of him as a genuine leader, and lack of sagacity? Nga Mya spread the propaganda claiming the Buddhist Karens are challenging the Central KNU and put the Christians on alert. He issued an order to reinforce Manerplaw.

In actuality, the problem is not a religious conflict and it has nothing to do with the SLORC. It was just a case of the brainless Nga Mya digging his own grave.

Part II

BK3101101595 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese 0415 GMT 30 Jan 95

[Second installment of an article by "a Karen national": "Which Way KNU?" from 30 January MYANMAR ALIN and KYEMON]

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General Maung Maung, secretary general of the KNU [Karen National Union], summoned district, brigade, and regimental commanders and issued a statement after his escape from the confluence [of Salween and Thaungyin Rivers where he was held captive by KNU mutineers]. The statement read:

For your information: A meeting was called by the Kawthulay [Karen] Karen Buddhist Association for peaceful reconciliation following allegations of religious discrimination and organizational work among people by some comrades at Thay Ro Hta. The position of the monks at the meeting was that the meeting was aimed at establishing an advantage over them. When they claimed 100,000 [currency not specified] for meeting expenses, I issued them that amount with the hope of obtaining unity.

Prior to the meeting, the leaders: Major General Maung Maung, Colonel Tu Tu Lay, Phado Man Hsa, Lieutenant Colonel Johnny, and Phado San Hlaing went to Thay Ro Hta and held a meeting with the [mutinous] comrades who detained all the leaders. Our abbot, Nokchin Sayadaw Rambo, who was eager to establish unity, went to the meeting but they did not obey him. Instead, they arrested Nokchin Abbot U Wizana and eight monks. They then issued an ultimatum to send to them the leaders—a monk [Sayadaw Rambo] from Thaw Le Hta who is the chairman [of Karen Sangha Organization], the interior minister, and the religious affairs minister [of the KNU] by 0900 11 December 1994. They said if the ultimatum was not met, they would proceed with their plan.

At 0930 on 11 December 1994, the mutineers who revolted with arms against the KNU went to Manerplaw from Thay Ro Hta with the intention of seizing power and positions. The problem arose when the comrades in charge of camp security used their weapons. Although we tried to resolve the problem peacefully, we could not avoid the use of force because the mutineers resorted to force. We are unable to know the condition of our leaders at the confluence of two rivers and that of the abbots from Nokchin.

Although the instigation at this time could be attributed to religious issues, the words of the abbots, who are dedicated to the cause of unity and peace, were not listened to. They were even detained. It is clear, therefore, that the movement is not just religious, but a counterrevolution against the Karen revolution. Therefore, the people, officers, and rank and file are hereby informed of the atrocities committed by the mutineers and urged not to be deceived by them or to become their instrument. Please explain to the people as soon as possible. Please acknowledge receipt of the message.

Meanwhile, Nga Mya [derogatory reference to General Saw Bo Mya] himself issued statements. Nga Mya's statement read as follows:

I believe the enemy is not currently using the strength of their army and weapons, but is seeking various ways, such as religious instigation, to cause disintegration of the Karen army. We should reconvene the monks and beg for their pardon in order to find a peaceful solution.

The SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] organizations are infiltrating and organizing the public, and their strength at Thay Ro Hta is reported to have reached 3,000. Such a development is unusual, but reflects an attempt by SLORC hardcores to create disunity. Therefore, we must strive not to have differences over religion. Therefore, please organize in townships to promote and explain mutual love and respect among religions and individuals. We should strive to find ways for ensuring the Kawthulay organization exists as a happy and lasting organization. Let us overcome the enemy's plot with our unity.

Nga Mya, while trying to deceive the public, sent messages to military units under his command, urging them not to allow the establishment of a separate organization in Thay Ro Hta. He selectively invited only the trusted members to attend the emergency meeting of the Central Committee of the KNU. He then informed the comrades in Thay Ro Hta that they had been given amnesty. Nga Mya's deeds are unprincipled and inconsistent.

Nga Mya tried to use the SLORC in order to solve the problem, while trying to crush the [mutinous] comrades at the confluence of the rivers. He summoned his support forces in panic to Manerplaw. Two helicopters arrived there. Pe Maung, commander of the 7th Brigade, called for military preparedness while Shwe Saing, commander of the 6th Brigade, asked Military Adjutant General Major General Saw Ba Htoo whether the problem at Thay Ro Hta was a revolt against the entire Karen revolution or a group of persons, or against an individual. He asked the number of leaders killed under detention and asked their names. There was no one to reply to the questions.

Ye Htin, commander of the 1st Brigade, asked the situation of his subordinate, Lieutenant Kyi. Lt. Kyi had to reply in a radio message. In the message, Ye Htin asked: Lt. Kyi, were you shot at? I had appealed to those dogs not to open fire. They did not listen. They fired heavy weapons into the crowd. We had to retaliate when we could no longer tolerate it. There are elders. Can't they solve the problem. Indiscriminate fire in the direction of (?Mae Ngun) destroyed trenches and killed many villagers as well as my men, including two from the unit of Warrant Officer Win U. Where is Pan Tin?

Pan Tin replied via radio: I had to flee from indiscriminate fire, so I cannot even determine which direction of the compass I am in. There are clashes all over the place—in Naw Hta, Manerplaw, Wangkha, Thu Mae Hta. All kinds of ammunition are being used—rocket fire, 81-mm, 75-mm. I do not even have clothing. You guys do not come up here. You will be intercepted at Manerplaw if you advance. What is the enemy doing? Who is the enemy? The dogs are firing indiscriminately. The [government] Army is not doing anything. They are staying by themselves.

The radio messages were full of abusive language. Meanwhile, the KNU [Karen National Union] Headquarters announced that the crisis has been resolved. Shwe Saing from the 6th Brigade replied that he could not help as he had run out of ammunition. He sent, however, 500,000 baht he received from selling timber to be used toward General Mya's expenses to prevent Nga Mya's displeasure.

Lt. Pya Pya and Lt. Kyi from the 104th Battalion left (?Mae Thu) and joined the Buddhists. Lt. Pya Pya and Lt. Kyi no longer obey the commands from the 104th Battalion. The Buddhist group attacked and captured a KNU armory between Paunk-U Creek and Mae Let Hta. Nga Mya called up his forces in order to crush the mutineers, and exhorted the Christians to fight. Some Christians refused to fight, saying they did not want to fight among themselves or the Defense Services, and that they only wanted peace. When they refused to fight, Nga Mya became frustrated [passage indistinct] and told them to delay as long as possible. They tried to get a temporary cease-fire, but there was growing mistrust between them.

Warrant Officer Kyaw Than told Major Kyaw: We cannot carry on like this, Major, Gen. Mya is planning to liquidate us, just like in the second Bawthayaw crisis. I never trusted him. It has been almost three years since he lied about trying to make peace with the SLORC. What do you want to do, Kyaw Than? We will form a new splinter group. We will make the abbot leader. We will try by ourselves to achieve genuine peace. Maj. Kyaw He shook his head. The abbot is not meeting anyone as he is currently under a vow. This has become a political matter. Then, either Maj. Win Din or you, Major [Kyaw He] from the 1st Brigade, must act as the leader. The abbot is the patron. Don't count on me, Kyaw Than. I am fed up with this fighting. I wish to stay near the abbot, devoting myself to dhamma [Buddha's teachings].

Meanwhile, a Buddhist soldier saluted and brought a telegram. The telegram was from Manerplaw, reinstating the major as second in command of the 20th Battalion. Hey, tell them that I have joined the monkhood. Kyaw Than, you continue as the leader. You have also done more than those who have become generals in Manerplaw.

Armed Karen Buddhist personnel have realized that the time has come for them to make a concrete decision. The Buddhist clergy and laity gathered at the confluence have swelled to almost 10,000. To feed this multitude is not an easy task. Although the armed soldiers arriving at the confluence had no shoes to wear, they possessed very high spirits. Nga Mya will try to stall and disperse the crowd. They all know that later they will be plucked out one by one. They know that if they join forces with the government Defense Forces, an order to attack the forces and the people has already been issued. Kyaw Than realized that the situation of the Buddhists is very grave. They have only one choice and that is to challenge Manerplaw. To gain eternal peace, there should be no historical enemy like Nga Mya and a rubbish dump like the KNU.

The Buddhists received the news that Kyaw Char, nephew of Nga Mya, gave 400,000 baht to KNU executioner Maung Soe and his group. The duty of Maung Soe and his group is to assassinate the Myainggyingu abbot, Lt. Kyaw Than, Lt. Kyi, and Lt. Pya Pya. This is the plan of Nga Mya. The Buddhist laity are more concerned about the safety of the abbot than the danger they face themselves. They posted sentries, who were willing to sacrifice their lives, to protect the abbot. The Buddhists gathered at the confluence have cut all ties with Nga Mya and the KNU. They have understood that they must form a separate organization. After a bilateral coordination meeting on 15 December 1994, the Karen Buddhists released Phado Man Hsa, Tu Tu Lay, and Lieutenant Colonel Johnny unharmed to Manerplaw. The Rambo monk and a monk from the country on the other side became frightened and fled. Although both sides signed a five-point agreement, this was just window dressing on the part of Nga Mya.

Part III

BK3101103095 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese 0415 GMT 31 Jan 95

[Third installment of article by "a Karen national" from the 31 January MYANMAR ALIN and KYEMON: "Which Way KNU?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The situation at the confluence region between the Salween and Thaungyin Rivers remains tense. The number of Buddhist monks and laity is more than those under arms. Nga Mya, who was afraid of the attack of the armed Buddhists on Manerplaw, requested assistance from the 6th and 7th Brigades. Not content with this, he asked for military assistance from the opium king Khun Sa. A battalion of 300 opium bandits from Khun Sa came and joined the KNU [Karen National Union] 2d Brigade.

At 1600 on 14 December, some responsible officials from the country on the other side [Thailand], television crews from Channel 7 and 9, and some journalists from a business magazine in Bangkok visited Manerplaw to gather news and tried to mediate.

At 0600 on 15 December, forces from the KNU 7th Brigade launched a fierce attack on hills where Buddhists are stationed. Karen Buddhists led by Kyaw He and Kyaw Than had to flee toward Ohn Daw. The 100 armed Buddhists and 500 members of the public at Thu Mae Hta stubbornly confronted the KNU units. Lieutenant Pya Pya and Lt. Kyi, who had left the KNU 104th Battalion and their group, reinforced troops in Thu Mae Hta. Dr. Naing Aung of the ABSDF [All Burma Students Democratic Front], Nai Pe Thein Zan of the New Mon State Party, and U Tin Aung, deputy chairman of the NLD [National League for Democracy] liberated zone, along with a monk from the country on the other side, tried to mediate. The Buddhists were invited to go to the country on the other side. The Buddhists, who were concerned about a blockade on supplies, went to the country on the other side along with the persons they detained—Johnny, Phado Man Hsa, Tu Tu Lay, and Rambo monk—at 1300 on 15 December 1994.

The Buddhist delegation included Buddhist monks—U Pyinnya Thami and U Kawdinnya—and Bo Kyaw Kalok. Represented at the talks on the side of the KNU at (?Sheitme) Monastery were Lieutenant General Ta Manar Baw, Phado Badei, Dr. Mar Tah, Phado Kaw Soe, Lt. Gen. Georgie, Phado Hmaing Yin Si, Phado Reginald Shwe, Lt. Col. Soe Soe. The KNU leaders used pressure on U Pyinnya Thami and U Kawdinnya and Bo Kyaw Kalok at the talks and forced them to sign the following five [as heard] agreements: to form a committee representing the Buddhists; the committee is charged with finding accurate and correct solutions when there is a conflict; to not punish, detain, kill, or jail comrades, monks, and people who participated in the events; the KNU should take complete responsibility; responsible battalion and unit commanders will have the right to judge those Buddhist commanders who committed offenses; to take effective action against those who obstruct propagation of religion and freedom of worship.

Nga Mya sent Ta Manar Baw to forcefully attempt reconciliation. Rambo Monk and the Thai monk fled before the agreement was signed. Ashin U Phinnya Thami and his group had no choice but to sign the agreement. Phado Man Hsa, Johnny, Tu Tu Lay, and Phado San Naing were handed over in the country on the other side. Even before the agreement was signed, Htin Maung was launching a fierce offensive against the armed Buddhists. The Buddhist members had no reason to trust Nga Mya and the KNU. Actually, the 15 December meeting was an irrelevant act as the fierce clashes were taking place.

The next day, the mediation committee led by Lt. Gen. Ta Manar Baw sent wireless messages calling for observance of the cease-fire and the five-point agreement. Rambo Monk was asked to come and live with the committee in the country on the other side and Phado Man Hsa, Lt. Col. Johnny, and Col. Tu Tu Lay were summoned to the committee, but no one followed the order. Nga Mya instructed Ta Manar Baw to spread news among the lower levels that continued negotiations are being held between us and the traitors at the Thaungyin Creek. Ask the traitors to seek pardon for their mistakes and ask them to issue a statement saying that the mistakes were made because of instigations from the SLORC.

Ta Manar Baw was frustrated. How was he to convince the Buddhists of Nga Mya's instructions? Nga Mya had written to Buddhists and admitted his mistake. On the other hand, he had instructed the 6th and 7th Brigades to fight fiercely. The Buddhists were forced to surrender. This is an act of a madman.

In practice, not only would the Buddhists not give up, but they became stronger when some members of the 6th and 7th Brigades came and joined them. Nga Mya did not trust the Buddhists in Manerplaw. Dr. Naing Aung of the ABSDF [All Burma Students Democratic Front] had to court Nga Mya by spreading propaganda that [the mutiny] was the work of the SLORC. He helped spread the propaganda that Myainggyingu abbot, Sayadaw Badanta Thuzana, was once a SLORC major.

The Buddhists such as U Tin Aung, U Khaing Soe Naing Aung, deputy chairman of ALP [Arakan Liberation Party]; Dr. San Aung, minister of the NCGUB [National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma]; and Myint Zaw, chairman of the underground Democratic Party for New Society, were becoming uncomfortable and they had to assist in the mediation according to Nga Mya's wishes.

Indeed, the split between the armed Buddhists and the KNU Central had become unnegotiable. The KNU Central no longer got along well with the general public, 80 percent of whom are Buddhists. Nga Mya absolutely had no goodwill in resolving the issue. The extent of the despicable deeds of Nga Mya could be seen as follows:

He wrote to the Buddhist members saying: Sons, I have erred. He then asked for their pardon. On the other hand, he instructed the mediation committee led by Lt. Gen. Ta Malar Baw to urge the Buddhists to admit their mistakes and to issue a statement saying their mistake was instigated by the SLORC.

He [Nga Mya] then told the Christian KNU members that a religious war has broken out. He put them on alert and asked them to annihilate the Buddhists. He requested military assistance from the opium king, Khun Sa. He issued statements to the entire KNU saying SLORC instigation was responsible for the events and called for unity. The negotiations by the two sides were sham.

Meanwhile, he tried to revive the peace process, which he had formerly ignored and treated lightly. He expressed his firm belief that the main cause of the civil war was political problems, and that genuine internal peace and national unity can be achieved only when the political problem is resolved politically. He said the KNU therefore is endeavoring to carry out necessary measures to obtain genuine and lasting peace. This was stated in the last paragraph of the statement issued by the general secretary of the KNU to the entire KNU in accordance with the wishes of Nga Mya.

Col. Naw War Htei from Manerplaw sent Phado Yar Yu, secretary of Pa-an District, to the Myainggyingu abbot for talks. Phado Yar Yu, under instructions from Gen. Maung Maung, arrived in Thay Ro Hta where they held talks with Lt. Pya Pya and later left for Myainggyingu. When they arrived in Myainggyingu, Warrant Officer Kyaw Than and his group made Phado Yar Yu drink the water of allegiance. Phado Yar Yu could no longer return to Manerplaw. Meanwhile, Kyi Maung, commander of the 7th Brigade, questioned Htaw Hla, commander of the 101st Battalion. He asked whether it was true that their 120-mm mortar had been destroyed by fire from those guys. What else happened?

Why are these questions being asked on the radio? The enemy must be listening. Well, the enemy must know all about it. It had happened. Just answer my question. What happened to the men? The Lord took away seven comrades who were near the mortar.

Nga Mya could no longer tolerate the situation. He wanted to settle the problem soon. He could not easily solve the problem which he had started so easily. He was tired of having to call out for help. It's too much. He said: Let's wait until the end of the month for these guys. If they do not do as we tell them, we will crush them resolutely. I shall kill all of them. Let them admit their mistake.

Another matter is that 1 January 1995 is our Christian New Year, and it coincides with the Karen New Year which falls on the first day of the waxing moon of Pyartho. Instruct the district, township, and village levels to celebrate the new year. Let them admit their mistake before the end of the year.

The Buddhists knew of Nga Mya's plot. They have firmly decided to separate. Their objective is no longer religious, but to drive out Nga Mya and his KNU organization and to obtain eternal peace.

Refugees Returning From Bangladesh Counted

Report for 17 Jan

BK2901084495 Rangoon THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR in English 20 Jan 95 p 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A total of 578 persons of 111 households arrived back at Kanyinchaung reception camp in Rakhine [Arakan] State from Bangladesh on 17 January under an agreement reached between Myanmar [Burma] and Bangladesh.

Altogether 143,905 persons of 29,669 households have arrived back from Bangladesh since 22 September 1992.

Report for 18 Jan

BK2901084695 Rangoon THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR in English 21 Jan 95 p 6

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A total of 990 persons from 175 households arrived back at three reception camps from Bangladesh on 18 January under the agreement reached between Myanmar [Burma] and Bangladesh.

Altogether 144,895 persons from 29,844 households have arrived back from Bangladesh since 22 September 1992.

Natural Gas Sales to Thailand Finalized

BK3101040295 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese 1330 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A ceremony to sign agreements with Thailand on the sale of natural gas from the Yatana gas field in the Martaban offshore of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] was held at the Meeting Hall of the Ministry of Energy on Prome Road at 0930 this morning. After an opening address by Energy Minister U Khin Maung Thein, responsible personnel delivered speeches. Next, personnel concerned signed the agreements on the sale of natural gas from the Yatana gas field. The ceremony concluded after Energy Minister U Khin Maung Thein presented the necessary documents.

In the evening, the energy minister hosted a banquet in honor of the signing ceremony at the Summit Park View Hotel on Ahlone Road. The banquet was attended by Vice Admiral Maung Maung Khin and Lieutenant General Tin Tun, both State Law and Order Restoration Council members and deputy prime ministers, cabinet ministers, and responsible personnel.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Deputy Prime Minister Comments on Davos Forum

BK3101035995 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Sri Anwar Ibrahim has said that Malaysia was asked to state its views on the economic crisis in Mexico and its effect on the East Asian region. He said that Malaysia's stance on the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, APEC, and the East Asia Economic Caucus, EAEC, were also discussed at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland:

[Begin Anwar recording] Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed has reiterated several times that APEC should remain a forum that is not attached to any exclusive institution and should not be transformed into a trade bloc. APEC should be an arena for meetings to promote closer cooperation among the countries in the Asia-Pacific region. It is in this context that Malaysia sees the significance of the EAEC. It is interesting to note that we took the opportunity to provide a lengthy explanation of the EAEC—that it is not going to be a trade bloc, but rather a caucus that will give members the opportunity to hold debates and discussions to achieve common ground on several issues. [end recording]

Datuk Sri Anwar Ibrahim was speaking to journalists at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Subang upon his return from attending the annual forum in Davos. He said that the informal forum had given government leaders and businessmen the chance to discuss several issues. In Davos, Annuar met the prime ministers of Singapore and New Zealand, the British chancellor of the exchequer, and ASEAN trade ministers.

Retiring Defense Chief on Job Qualifications

BK3101015595 Kuala Lumpur THE STAR in English 30 Jan 95 p 6

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuala Lumpur—Jen. [General] Tan Sri Borhan Ahmad does not think it is time yet for Malaysia to appoint its chief of air force or navy as Chief of Defence Forces. The outgoing Chief of Defense Forces cited several reasons why he felt the tradition of appointing a general from the army to the post should be maintained.

He said that in countries where chiefs of services other than from the army were picked, the appointee was a non-executive and was mainly in charge of administration or ceremonial duties.

"The Chief of Defense Forces in Malaysia holds executive powers," he said.

"In a war, I am expected to be in charge," BERNAMA [national news agency] quoted him as saying when he was asked about a proposal to enable chiefs of the air or navy to be appointed Chief of Defence Forces.

Jen. Borhan, who retires today after 37 years of service, said the designations and the training doctrines must be changed for the proposal to work.

His strongest argument against the idea was that Malaysia's defense strategy was land-based.

To be an effective Chief of Defense Forces, the person must understand the land defense strategy, he said.

Jen. Borhan said the air force or naval chief would be competent enough to head the armed forces if the training system was changed.

While training in the army now incorporates both air and naval warfare lessons, the air force or navy do not study land defense strategy at all.

"At present, we in the army understand the air force and navy better than they understand us," Jen. Borhan said.

Cambodia

Khmer Rouge: Talbott Remarks 'Escalating' War

BK3101061895 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 1200 GMT 30 Jan 95

[Unattributed commentary: "The Entire Cambodian Nation and People Resolutely Oppose the U.S. Escalation of Communist Vietnam's War of Aggression and Genocide Against Cambodia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In his remarks, the man named Strobe Talbott, U.S. deputy secretary of state, grossly announced that he would continue giving aid to the two-headed government to continue igniting the war against the Cambodian nation and people. What is the meaning of these remarks?

Everybody knows that the two-headed government is a puppet of communist Vietnam and that it is extremely traitorous and fascist. Everybody also knows that communist Vietnam is continuing to ignite its war of aggression through its puppets in a bid to massacre the Cambodian people, swallow up Cambodia, and exterminate the Cambodian race. Therefore, such obnoxious remarks very clearly show that the United States has bared itself as the new aggressor to collude with communist Vietnam in committing genocide against Cambodia.

By any law and in any country, manslaughter is always regarded as the most heinous crime. Then, how atrocious, how heinous is the crime of colluding in the massacre of innocent Cambodians, slaughtering them again and again, and helping communist Vietnam to wolf down Cambodia and commit genocide against it?

In the face of the cry for help voiced by the Cambodian nation and people, victims of the communist Vietnamese war of aggression during the past 16-odd years who are currently experiencing a deadly famine while earnestly demanding an end to the war as well as genuine national reconciliation and genuine peace, the United States—the chief criminal—has instead threatened them by announcing the escalation of the communist Vietnamese war of aggression and genocide against Cambodia. This is tantamount to slaughtering the Cambodian nation and people in the most savage and brutal manner. It constitutes another atrocious crime on top of those that the United States has already committed against our Cambodian nation, people, and race.

Cambodians and their history must record and remember for generations to come, constantly and permanently recalling that the United States has owed the Cambodian nation and people a considerable blood debt. How hard has the United States tried to drag Cambodia into the flames of war during the past more than 40 years, that is, since 1955? How many coup attempts did it make before it succeeded in scuttling Cambodia's independence, neutrality, and sovereignty in March 1970? From 1965 to 1970, how cruelly and savagely did it use various types of aircraft, including B-52's, to commit a massive massacre and destruction against whole villages of our people? How systematically and repeatedly has this chief warmonger colluded with communist Vietnam to sabotage national reconciliation and peace?

Now he is recklessly and openly escalating the communist Vietnamese war of aggression and genocide against Cambodia. To the entire Cambodian nation and people whose tradition is to fight and vanquish all kinds of aggressors, the hot air of this criminal chieftain has inspired no fear whatsoever. The Cambodian nation and people clearly see and firmly grasp the situation in which the traitors are collapsing and nothing can save them. On the contrary, this announcement can only further kindle the raging flames of national and people's hatred which will burn the heads of both the old and new aggressors until they are completely consumed. These are arch-criminals who try to kill the Cambodian nation and people. The victimized Cambodian people have all the right to fight back. They come here to escalate the communist Vietnamese war of aggression and genocide against Cambodia. This war will suck them deeper and deeper into an inextricable bog that will bleed them to death.

Everywhere warmongering aggressors are crushed and swept into the thrash pit of history by peace- and justice-loving forces. This has become a law of nature and a generally accepted truth. Cambodia is no exception: Both the old and new aggressors will not escape from being crushed and wiped out by the national and people's forces who are fighting for genuine national reconciliation and peace.

Khmer Rouge Issues Statement on 'Cabinet' Meeting

BK3101051795 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 1200 GMT 30 Jan 95

["Press Communique" issued by the Secretariat of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation Cabinet on 30 January; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation [PGNUNS] cabinet held its weekly working session on Monday, 30 January, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Khieu Samphan, prime minister and minister of the National Army, and with the participation of all its members.

The cabinet examined and discussed the contents of numerous letters from the people in all areas that the cabinet's secretariat received through the municipal, provincial, district, commune, and village commissions, and set forth a political orientation program.

I. The people from all social strata both in the countryside and in Phnom Penh demand an immediate end to the communist Vietnamese war of aggression and genocide. They express seething hatred against the traitorous nation-selling Hun Sen-Chea Sim-Sar Kheng clique and the two-headed government—lackeys of communist Vietnam—and the warmongering allies who have allowed the old and new aggressors to continuously kindle the communist Vietnamese war of aggression and genocide against Cambodia.

II. Aware of such a danger, the entire Cambodian nation and people have striven to consolidate and enhance our national forces so they can fight even more vigorously against the enemy both in the countryside and in Phnom Penh. The entire people demand that the communist Vietnamese war of aggression and genocide be brought to an immediate end. The Cambodian nation and people urgently want genuine national reconciliation and genuine peace to save and perpetuate our race. This is the fervent call and earnest wish of our entire nation and people everywhere and of all social strata living in the countryside, in Phnom Penh, and abroad.

The PGNUNS cabinet realizes that, more than ever before, it is now imperative for the entire Cambodian nation and people to continue fighting even more vigorously to achieve genuine national reconciliation and genuine peace and to put a definitive end to the communist Vietnamese war of aggression and genocide. This undertaking is in response to the desire of the Cambodian nation and people who have been victimized for more than 16 years now. This undertaking constitutes a lofty responsibility for the survival of the Cambodian nation, people, and race and will save them from extinction.

III. Experience in Cambodia and elsewhere in the world clearly shows that aggressors and warmongers absolutely cannot vanquish peace-loving, independence-upholding patriotic forces.

During the 13-odd years of the communist Vietnamese war of aggression, despite their all-out efforts and with the former Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact countries giving them arms and money, the communist Vietnamese have been unable to eliminate the resistance forces and Cambodian people. They have failed to annex Cambodia. They have instead been bogged down in all fields and from all angles and have suffered defeats both in Cambodia and in Vietnam.

At present, although they have made all-out efforts, the warmongering alliance and communist Vietnam have failed to break the firm will of the Cambodian nation and people who are fighting to salvage the Cambodian nation and race. Both the old and new enemies are in great panic, having fallen into an impasse and being bogged down even more deeply in all fields. Should they persistently carry on the war, they will certainly suffer even more serious defeats and eventually face total doom. The communist Vietnamese puppet-traitors Hun Sen, Chea Sim, Sar Kheng, and the two-headed government—their out-and-out lackeys, are writhing in their dead throes and heading toward total collapse. Nothing can save them.

IV. The all-around situation of our nation-people struggle to save our nation and race is good. The fighting forces for genuine national reconciliation and genuine peace are striking at and trampling on the heads of the traitorous, genocidal clique and the old and new aggressors even more vigorously.

Through the dynamic zeal and the seething hatred of our entire Cambodian nation and people, we clearly see that genuine national reconciliation and peace within the framework of an independent and sovereign Cambodia with its territorial integrity will definitely be achieved within the near future.

Nothing can conquer the entire Cambodian nation-people forces, which resolutely fight to defend our national entity and to salvage the nation and race. This is the law of nature and the truth which has been repeatedly emphasized in history.

Monday, 30 January 1995
The PGNUNS Secretariat

Kompong Cham Governor Commissions Ex-KR

BK3101134095 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0500 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A ceremony was held in the Kompong Cham Province's Military Sub-zone on the morning of 28 January to commission 307 former Khmer Rouge [KR] officers and soldiers who defected to the Royal Government of Cambodia and graduated from a month-long training course. The ceremony was held under the chairmanship of His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Neng, governor of Kompong Cham Province and commander of Kompong Cham Provincial forces; Lieutenant General Li Penghong, deputy chief of the General Staff of the Khmer Royal Armed Forces [KRAF]; and many other officials.

According to a report presented at this ceremony, after these Khmer Rouge officers and soldiers returned to the national society in the cause of national reconciliation and concord, the authorities in Kompong Cham Province have made every effort to provide them with aid for their living and gave them training in military tactics.

H.E. Hun Neng said that at the beginning of 1995, Kompong Cham Province welcomed 536 former soldiers of the Democratic Kampuchea (DK) including 116 members of their families. He added that in return for their contribution to national restoration and development, Kompong Cham Province and the province's Military Subzone have requested the KRAF General Staff to confer ranks on these 307 former members of the DK army appropriately with their respective duties.

KR Continue Battambang 'Scorched-Earth' Policy

BK3101095895 Hong Kong AFP in English 0948 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Phnom Penh, Jan 31 (AFP)—Khmer Rouge [KR] guerrillas continued their recent ferocious scorched-earth campaign in Cambodia's northwest Battambang province, razing more than 20 villagers' homes and killing five civilians, the governor said Tuesday.

About 30 guerrillas attacked a small village in the Ek Phnom district, some 10 kilometers (six miles) north of

Battambang city, early Monday, Battambang Governor Ung Sami told AFP by phone.

Five local villagers were killed in the 30-minute attack while one government militiaman was injured, Ung Sami said, adding that the guerrillas suffered one dead and four injured.

Consistent with a recent scorched-earth policy, the guerrillas set ablaze the homes of some 24 villagers and also looted the peasants' valuables.

In swift but vicious hit-and-run attacks in Battambang province over the past month, Khmer Rouge guerrillas have razed thousands of homes belonging to poor villagers.

Schools, hospitals and clinics have also been destroyed.

Foreign aid officials believe the guerrillas are trying to burden the cash-strapped government with a growing tide of displaced people.

One aid worker who travelled to the scenes of some of the most destructive raids told the local English-language Phnom Penh Post the guerrilla attacks represented "vengeance on a scale not seen in a long time."

During his recent visit here, US Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott expressed "cautious hope" that the guerrillas' current campaign was a sign that the Khmer Rouge, having suffered thousands of defections, were in decline.

"Our provisional assessment is that the extraordinary new wave of brutality that the Khmer Rouge has undertaken against innocent civilians and small villages is a sign of desperation," Talbott said.

Hun Sen Affirms Constitution, Rural Development

BK2801161095 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 28 Jan 95 pp 1, 11

[All quotation marks as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] Samdech Hun Sen, second prime minister, told the seminar on rural development on 26 January that "if anyone wants to destroy the Constitution, there will be armed conflict within an hour. This is the legitimate right to defend the Constitution. We will not be in the wrong. I led troops to repress Chakkrapong, Sin Song, and Sin Sen. Why can't I lead troops to repress other destroyers of the Constitution?"

It is to be noted that this was the second time that Hun Sen has warned strongly against maneuvers to destroy the Constitution, known to be led by some politicians who lost in the election. It is still remembered that in early January Hun Sen resolutely said to the Khmer Royal Armed Forces [KRAF] in Sihanoukville that "As co-prime minister and KRAF commander in chief, I absolutely will not let anyone destroy the Constitution, whether through hot or cold means. These persons have to punished. "Officers and men should clearly grasp this point."

Hun Sen went on to say that the king has clearly said in Svay Don Kev on the border of Pursat and Battambang Provinces that he will not touch the Constitution. He does not want power. He clearly stressed that even the king cannot touch the Constitution. He has already made this very clear, how some people still demand that power be given to Samdech Euv [Sihanouk]? Or this is a demand for oneself? Also in regard to this power issue, Hun Sen said: "I am not clinging to this power as prime minister, but this is my mandate. Therefore, please give me time to work for the nation properly. Do not disturb and threaten me. If you want to be prime minister, wait for the next mandate after 1998. If you win the election, come and be prime minister."

The samdech further said that even if I leave the post there are already people to replace me, namely Sar Kheng and Say Chhum. Do not expect that you will be prime minister after I leave. Do not nurture any hope. Wait until after 1998.

On the same occasion the samdech also specified that it should be clearly realized that the Khmer Rouge is returning to the strategy of the 1950's and 1960's, that is to "urge people in rural areas to be angry with those in cities and to foster enmity between the poor and the rich. Rural development in Cambodia is a very big and important issue; 80 percent of the population are waiting for us. We cannot maintain sufficient political stability and security as long as we do not improve the moral and material living standards in rural areas, where 80 percent of the people live. "The gap between cities and rural areas and the emergence of a production mode that leads to poverty among rural people are events that will lead to an unfavorable political situation for the Royal Government. The strategy being used by the Khmer Rouge is to foster enmity between rural people and city people and between the poor and the rich. This is a strategy that the Royal Government has to counter through developing our rural areas."

Hun Sen further said that in all countries, particularly in the neighboring countries of Thailand and Malysia, opposition forces were eliminated over the past 30 to 40 years primarily through rural development. Through rural development, the opposition will have no reason to use poverty against the government.

"Thus, rural development is not just a socio-economic issue but also one of lasting political stability."

Report Views Threats Against BLDP MP's

BK3101093295 Phnom Penh PHNOM PENH POST in English 27 Jan-9 Feb 95 p 2

[Report by Jason Barber]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sam Rangsi will neither confirm nor deny that King Norodom Sihanouk has provided personal security for him.

Sources say non-Khmer bodyguards, apparently North Korean, have been seen with Rangsi on at least one occasion recently.

King Sihanouk uses bodyguards provided by North Korea.

Rangsi, asked about the matter during an interview at his Phnom Penh home, replied: "They are not with me, living in this house."

Pressed to comment, he said: "Yes, the King has expressed concern about my security. Has he taken any special measures? I do not know. I cannot confirm, I cannot deny this.

"I know that many people are watching me closely and they belong to different organizations, even those opposing me."

It has been widely reported that the First Prime Minister, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, recently made what he later termed "a joke" that Rangsi's wife would soon be a widow.

Meanwhile, Rangsi has confirmed that he choose to be out of Cambodia when the National Assembly voted on the 1995 Budget on December 30 after Ranariddh "gently but insistently" asked him not to be present.

Rangsi is adamant that he did not leave the country under threat to his life, but reliable sources maintain that he has told FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] MPs that it was because he was threatened.

Two BLDP [Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party] MPs, Kem Sokha and Son Chhay—both regular critics of the government—said this week that MPs [members of Parliament] were operating in an increasing climate of threats and intimidation.

They cited First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh's naming of them "enemies of the government" in a public speech recently.

They also referred to a December 31 speech by Second Prime Minister Hun Sen in which he warned that people who opposed the government—particularly in regard to seeking foreign military aid—faced demonstrations at their houses by the military and police.

"The government will find it difficult to stop them because they are armed with guns," Hun Sen said in the speech.

Son Chhay—who said he had recently received an anonymous telephone threat and been followed by two uniformed men on motorcycles—said he had also been openly threatened by military officials including Co-Defense Minister Tea Chamrat.

"To threaten a MP verbally that way is not acceptable." he said.

"Under a free democracy any kind of threat is unacceptable, especially from top leaders."

Reassertion of 'Authoritarianism' Claimed

BK3101095695 Bangkok BANGKOK POST (INSIDE INDOCHINA Supplement) in English 31 Jan 95 p 1

[Report from Phnom Penh by Brian Hansford: "Trend Toward Intolerance"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the last month or so several Cambodian officials and politicians have been increasingly warning of government efforts to stifle dissent in parliament. Various human rights officials have spoken of the increasingly public reassertion of traditional Cambodian authoritarianism.

This is a political theme which most would argue has remained substantially unchanged for generations in the country, despite the recent election costing $2 billion.

Last week it was the turn of the United Nations to highlight the fragility of Cambodia's fledging democracy.

"We must replace bullets with words, we must replace autocracy with democracy and respect for human rights," said the visiting UN special representative for human rights in Cambodia.

Justice Michael Kirby was referring in general to the past intolerance displayed by Cambodians to one another and in particular to complaints of threats made against three Cambodian members of parliament.

"That is a new turn and it is worrying, I've made it clear to the Second Prime Minister (Hun Sen), the government and to the king," said Kirby referring to the alleged "threats".

Second Prime Minister Hun Sen "did not accept the validity of the treats" Kirby told reporters while emphasising that he had not received concrete proof of these allegations.

But for all his diplomacy, the senior UN official said he was taking the issue seriously.

Cambodian sources told INSIDE INDOCHINA the three MPs [members of Parliament] who said they had been threatened were outspoken former finance minister Sam Rangsi from FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] and two similar critical voices from the small Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party, Kem Sokha and Son Chhai

"One of them indicated that telephone calls had been made stating to the recipient: "You cannot escape me, I am following you, I am watching your every move," said Kirby quoting one of the complainants but not giving away names.

The senior UN official said he would ask the International Parliamentary Union to send a mission to Cambodia to try to boost the idea of freedom of debate.

He will also speak to the UN's two special rapporteurs, who deal specifically with issues involving freedom of expression and allegations of threatening behaviour.

Kirby, who last week ended his fifth mission to Cambodia, tried to balance these negative aspects of his trip by highlighting what he called the "good news" and in particular the support of King Norodom Sihanouk as "the guardian of human rights" in the country.

But several Cambodian officials remain more pessimistic and will also challenge Kirby's optimism on the likely improvement of the country's harsh draft press law.

Some from the Khmer Journalists Association think the government will try to pass the law once the king has left Cambodia and will not be around to intervene.

Human rights groups and several Cambodian politicians have also voiced increased concern about a law which has already been passed—the ending of the Khmer Rouge amnesty deadline in January.

Despite Defence Ministry calls to extend this deadline there has been no clear decision yet and several officials fear the current expiry ruling could be used to further clamp down on legal opposition in Cambodia's parliament by labelling dissenters supporters of the Khmer Rouge.

Several MPs and numerous human rights officials say this is already being done by government leaders to discredit any other news.

Certainly, government officials have recently denied newspaper allegations of threats against MPs, particularly reports in the Cambodian press that Sam Rangsi's wife would be the next widow in the country.

"The Ministry of Information would like to reiterate that the duty of the government is to ensure security for all people," read a recent press release.

Despite these denials Phnom Penh's leaders have also come out with some very ambivalent public statements in the past two months including allegations that "certain politicians are playing the Khmer Rouge card".

Given statements like this in the context of Cambodia's tradition of one-man or one-party politics, several MPs are already warning that the rule of parliamentary debate is becoming the law of the rubber stamp assembly.

"Right now it seems our government is at war with the MPs," said Ahmad Yahya, a FUNCINPEC member of parliament for Phnom Penh.

"We are not opposed to the government but when we see something wrong we have to speak up and this will be good for our country," he said.

Indonesia

* Vietnam Interested in Palapa Transponders

95SE0075B Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 9 Dec 94 p 19

The possibility that Vietnam will use the Palapa transponder for domestic television arose at a visit made by Minister of Information Harmoko to Vietnam from 20-27 November. All that remains to do is to explore the rental of the transponder.

"It is clear that since Vietnam has been using the transponder for radio, according to the report of the Vietnamese minister of information, it has turned out that there has been a rapid increase in radio operations. The sound is better, the range is greater. So I think that will also be the case for television. All that remains to do is to explore the rental of the transponder. The opportunities are better," he said.

This was presented to reporters after a meeting with President Soeharto at the Freedom Palace on Thursday (8 December). The minister of information gave as an example the present ability of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia to receive French language broadcasts from French TV; the sound can be very clear if a parabolic antenna is used. The fact is that French TV makes use of the Palapa satellite, which covers the Asia Pacific (ASPAS) region, especially Southeast Asia.

"Vietnam is developing its media; if they rent Palapa, the opportunity will be greater to reach their targeted public," said Harmoko. He also explained that on his trip to Vietnam agreement was reached on a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to replace the old MOU.

From the point of view of the development of information in the Asia Pacific region, bilateral cooperation among ASEAN nations and the Asia Pacific nations is very much needed, considering that the problem to be faced in the future is the use of satellites. In this respect Indonesia is using the Palapa satellite for radio broadcasts. That is why the possibility of Vietnam's using the Palapa transponder for TV was discussed at the meetings in Vietnam.

The minister of information said that at yesterday's meeting President Soeharto mentioned that foreign cooperative technical aid will be connected to requests for priorities, whether it is to be in the field of electronics, print media or telecommunications. In addition, publishers in Indonesia have started to carry out cooperative training.

Harmoko said, "I think this is only natural, there is no problem with increasing cooperation. For radio, for example, SUARA INDONESIA already exists in Vietnam. Their radio broadcasts Indonesian-language programs, which are received clearly by the public in the border region."

Guidelines

President Soeharto, according to Harmoko, also issued guidelines on the use of the Multi Media Training Center (MMTC) in Yogyakarta as a way of increasing training and education for friendly nations in Southeast Asia and on the need to develop telecommunications education and training.

When he was in Vietnam, Minister of Information Harmoko was received by the prime minister of Vietnam and by party leaders. They concluded their meeting by conveying their respects to President Soeharto for his leadership of the GNB [Nonbloc Movement] and they expressed their best wishes and pride at Indonesia's success at the recent APEC meetings held in Jakarta and Bogor.

Another Vietnamese wish which was raised was that economic and trade relations become a measuring rod for increasing future good relations since there are now many businesses in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. Vietnam asked Indonesian businessmen to develop through medium scale as well as large scale trade.

The minister of information also said that on 15-16 December there will be a plenary session of the Press Board with the theme "The Role of the Mass Media, particularly the Press, in Realizing APEC" to be held in Linggarjati, West Java. This topic was selected because APEC successes must be institutionalized, especially domestically.

Harmoko also reported to President Soeharto on plans for Village Information Week (PEPENDES) to be held in the middle of January 1995 in Agam District, West Java; it will be opened by Vice-President Try Sutrisno.

Foreign Press Covers Nahdlatul Ulama Congress

[FBIS Media Note] **Summary: According to the Indonesian press, the recent congress of the Muslim organization Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) in Cipasung, West Java, received unprecedented international press coverage. Foreign observers and news agencies made special note of NU's "enormous" size, "uniqueness," and popularity, the press said.**

The 29th congress of the Muslim socio-religious organization Nahdatul Ulama on 1-5 December attracted an unprecedented number of foreign observers and journalists, according to the 7 December SUARA PEMBARUAN and SUARA KARYA. The 12 December WARTA EKONOMI noted that reporters from Reuters, UPI, AP, AFP, and foreign television networks, including the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), traveled to Cipasung, West Java, to cover the congress which takes place once every five years.

According to SUARA PEMBARUAN, ABC provided television coverage of the event because of the "enormous" size of the NU congress. The paper also reported that specialists on Islamic affairs, such as Dr. Martin Van Bruinessen from the Netherlands, Professor Mitsuo Nakamura from Japan, and Greg Barton from Australia, were in Cipasung to monitor the activities of Indonesia's largest socio-religious organization. These specialists stated that with a population of 190 million, of which 90 percent are Muslims, Indonesia is the largest Muslim country in the world and NU may well be the world's biggest socio-religious organization. SUARA PEMBARUAN said that NU, founded by K.H. Hasyin Asy'ari in the East Java town of Jombang in 1926, currently has more than 30 million members, most of whom live in some 7,000 boarding schools (pesantren) in villages throughout the country. Nationally, NU "carries a lot of clout," the paper stated, noting that President Suharto officiated at the opening of the Cipasung Congress, which attracted approximately 200,000 people. In addition, 15 cabinet ministers addressed the attendees of the five-day event and Vice-President Try Sutrisno offered closing remarks. Insufficient accommodations in Cipasung did not deter people from coming, and many stayed at mosques in the area, the paper reported.

NU's "uniqueness" was cited by foreign observers as another reason for the international attention the organization has been receiving, according to the 7 December KOMPAS. Professor Nakamura described NU as a "traditional, but very democratic organization." He explained that NU's members are villagers who lead simple lives and are not well informed because of limited communication facilities, a lack of education, and poor economic conditions. He remarked that NU has adopted a democratic decision-making process, pointing out that Chairman Abdurrahman Wahid was reelected at the December congress by the heads of the organization's 316 district chapters in the 26 Indonesian provinces. Nakamura also said that NU is unique for having left the political arena—even though it had "immense" potential bargaining power—to return to a commitment made in 1926, which is to be active only in social, educational, economic, and religious activities. KOMPAS quoted Martin Van Bruinesses from the Netherlands and Greg Barton from Australia as saying that NU's popularity in the international arena must be credited to Abdurrahman Wahid who was elected chairman for the third time at the recent congress. Abdurrahman Wahid, popularly called Gus Dur, has led NU since 1984 and has brought NU to national prominence. His effort to promote democracy in the organization, as well as in the country, has reportedly earned him the admiration of people within and outside of NU. KOMPAS reported that Gus Dur is also recognized as a "human rights activist" and a spokesman for those who have been neglected during the national development process. Van Bruinessen pointed out that Gus Dur's recent visit to Israel—a country that has no diplomatic ties with Indonesia—and his ensuing call for the establishment of diplomatic relations between Jakarta and Tel Aviv made him and NU domestically popular and internationally recognized. While Gus Dur was criticized by many, he was praised by peace lovers at home and abroad, according to Van Bruinessen. Finally, KOMPAS noted that Gus Dur's election as chairman of the World Conference for Religious and Peace in November has paved the way for him as well as NU to "go international."

Court Sentences Two Aceh GPK Members

BK3101052095 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 1618 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Banda Aceh, 30 Jan (ANTARA)—Two more members of the Aceh GPK [Security Disturbance Movement], who are followers of Tengku Bantaqiah, were sentenced to a total of 24 years in prison, minus detention time, by the state court in Lhokseumawe, North Aceh, on Monday.

The first GPK activist, namely M. Amin Samidan or Amin Panga, 52, was sentenced to nine years in jail, while Syamsul Bahri bin Mohamed, 19, was jailed for 15 years. They were found guilty of undermining the government's authority and the 1945 Constitution. [passage omitted]

In their verdict, the panel of judges said the two men were found to have committed the illegal action of trying to establish a separate state from the unitary state of the Republic of Indonesia.

M. Amin Samidan was working as a driver who actively provided transportation to the Bantaqiah group members and Guru Rahman (still at large) from Beutong Ateuh in West Aceh, to Matang Sejuk Village, Lhoksukon, in North Aceh.

Syamsul Bahri admitted that he had served as a soldier in the Free Aceh Movement where he received a rifle from Guru Rahman, who appointed himself GPK commander of the Lhoksukon area.

* Capital Market Board Views High-Risk Deals

95SE0075A Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 19 Dec 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Public corporations (issuers) should not carry out any chancy, high risk transactions, such as derivatives trading. But if they are forced to, their management must first ask for the approval of the stockholders at a Stockholders' General Meeting (RUPS).

Bacelius Ruru, head of the Capital Market Supervisory Board (BAPEPAM), made this assertion in response to questions about BAPEPAM's position on Indah Kiat Pulp and Paper, Inc and Tjiwi Kimia Inc.

At discussions on capital markets held in Cipanas, Cianjur, on Saturday (17 December), Ruru went on to say that his agency is now auditing the books of those two corporations and will request that the findings be opened to the public.

"The corporations will announce the results of the audit," he said.

He explained that BAPEPAM will also issue a Circular Letter on the policies which must be implemented by the management of public corporations concerning the need to hold a RUPS before carrying out high-risk transactions.

"Other such high-risk transactions must also have the stockholders' prior approval," he said.

"If the corporation is forced to carry out such transactions, the people who do it must be capable and knowledgeable about derivatives trading," he added.

Loss

Indah Kiat and Tjiwi Kimia previously admitted that they had done some derivative trading in 1993 and 1994 and that they had lost $35 million and $12.5 million respectively, a total of about 95 billion rupiahs.

In an official letter, it was explained that the majority stockholders were liable for such a large loss, even though it could not be proved from the audited financial statement.

But banking observers Rijanto and I Nyoman Moena, when contacted by MERDEKA, said that the losses due to derivatives trading will be borne not just by the majority stockholders but automatically by all the stockholders, including those who had bought their shares on the secondary market.

"So losses caused by the majority stockholders will be borne by all the stockholders," said Moena.

Rijanto believes that the consequences of whatever happened, especially anything involving financial matters, no matter who did it, would have to be entered into the company's financial statement and balance sheet.

He added that the consequences of losses resulting from swap transactions are no different whether public or private companies are involved. But what is certain is that the losses must be reported and entered into the financial balance sheet.

"It is wrong to say that only the majority stockholders are liable," he said.

He sees an effort by the Sinar Mas Group [SMG] to cover a loan. As an example, he mentioned that SMG covered a loan at a rate of exchange of 2,100 rupiahs to the US dollar, plus additional charges. But if they are wrong and the rate of exchange drops or rises, SMG is required to pay the difference.

"They should be more careful and not get lured into a speculative venture," he added, emphasizing the need for public corporations to continue to fulfill the promises made in their prospectuses.

In another part of his statement, he said that corporate management must also be more open and report important events involving the mechanism of their ventures as quickly as possible. "This is important so that no information leaks out beforehand," he asserted.

In their official letter No. 056/IX/H/XII/'94 dated 1 December, the two corporations stated that Indah Kiat and Tjiwi Kimia had suffered financial losses due to $35-million and $12.5-million swap transactions.

They explained that these swap transaction losses would not reduce the companies' profits. Indah Kiat and Tjiwi Kimia's profits this year continue to indicate that the companies are performing well, in fact better than in the same period last year.

Indah Kiat's net profits of 63 billion rupiahs as of 30 September 1993 rose to 131 billion rupiahs as of 30 September 1994. Tjiwi Kimia's net profits for the same period rose from 57 billion rupiahs to 78 billion rupiahs.

It was said that losses due to derivatives trading were caused by the fact that the Sinar Mas Group wished to reduce the interest costs on the bonds issued by the company. This approach and undertaking in derivatives trading is called a hedging failure.

* Minister Rejects Protection for New Industries

95SE0076B Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 9 Dec 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister of Finance Mar'ie Muhammad reasserted that the government will not grant protection to new industries. This is a government regulation and it has been approved by President Suharto.

This was the assertion made by Mar'ie Muhammad after a Working Meeting with the APBN [State Budget] Commission of the Indonesian DPR [Parliament] held in Jakarta yesterday when he was asked for his response to the request made by Peter F. Gontha, vice president of Chandra Asri Petrochemical Center (CAPC), Inc, for protective support from the DPR at a public hearing between CAPC, Inc and Commission VI of the DPR in the DPR Building held on Wednesday (7 December).

Meanwhile, when asked for his response, Boomer Pasaribu, a member of the DPR's APBN Commission, said that he supports the government's position not to grant additional forms of protection to every industry.

Even though he respects the vice president of CAPC, Inc's wish to receive protection expressed at a public hearing with Commission VI of the DPR. [as published]

In addition, he said that for years the World Bank has suggested that Indonesia reduce the level of protection and the level of inefficiency of its economy, at every link in the chain of its industry, from upstream to downstream.

"That is why in this respect the government must hold firmly to its position not to grant protection, especially since it has signed the GATT and WTO agreements and is pioneering the Bogor declaration," he said.

It is time for industry to adjust by increasing efficiency in order to raise Indonesia's competitive capabilities in the face of trade liberalization and productivity without having to keep on asking for protection from the government, he stated.

Boomer Pasaribu also explained that while the level of our Nominal Tariff of Protection (NTP) ranges from 17 to 60 percent, in reality our Effective Tariff of Protection (ETP) is as high as 611 percent. "This is in line with the World Bank's report in which the ETP is a multiple of the NPT," he said.

"The effective tariff is very high, ranging from 50 to 611 percent. This means that our industry as a whole is still overwhelmed by such a high degree of inefficiency that if it occurs in an upstream industry it has an effect on middle and downstream industries," he stated.

That is why the World Bank is really serious in its official reports to the Indonesian government, which include the problem of the multiplier effect of efficiency and seriously suggest lowering the NTP. Even more important is to lower the ETP, which is the highest among the ASEAN nations.

"We also know that it has been proposed again and again that our ICOR [Incremental Capital Output Ratio] be lowered so as to be more efficient," he added.

He said that the government must take the firm position not to grant new protection. Because up to now the level of nominal and even to a greater extent the level of effective tariff protection has been high. So don't grant any more protection, he said firmly.

Protection for Upstream Industry

Meanwhile, Sanyoto Sastrowardoyo, minister of state for investment and chairman of the capital market supervisory board (BKPM), said that the government will continue to grant protection to upstream industries as long as that protection does not burden downstream industries.

Sanyoto made that statement in response to questions from reporters at a break in the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the YKK [expansion unknown] Indonesia Group in Jakarta yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by, among others, Zeni Kaminaga, Japanese ambassador to Indonesia, and by Tadahiro Yoshida, president director of the YKK Corp of Japan and all his employees.

At 20 years of age, the YKK Indonesia Group is reported to routinely export $40 million worth of goods and in the coming years this will rise to $70 million.

He added that granting protection was not actually forbidden and that in fact under GATT a rate of protection of 40 percent is still allowed for eight years.

Sanyoto revealed this in connection with a report about a request made by olefin producers Chandra Asri (CA), Inc.

He said that there is no problem if the government grants protection to CA.

"Why is there a big fuss made in our country, but other countries, such as Hong Kong and Thailand, still grant protection to the same industries. Why not us?" he asked.

However, up to this point, he went on, CA has not yet submitted a formal request for protection to the government. But, he added, if CA, Inc submits an official request, the government will not just grant the request as quickly as all that.

The government, he said, through the tariff team consisting of the minister of finance, the minister of industry and the minister of trade, would very carefully calculate the actual cost of raw materials needed by the industry. When that figure had been arrived at, plans would be made for the amount and form of protection to be granted.

However, at this point, he said, his group is not yet able to answer the question of what form the protection granted to CA would take. "We don't know what they're imagining," he said, explaining that as of now CA, Inc has not yet submitted a request for protection.

However, he reasserted that granting protection would be based on the consideration that it not burden downstream industries.

He added that there now are new investors who wish to enter this type of industry. This means that new investors in the olefin industry would be treated in the same way as CA, Inc.

According to the minister, if downstream industries are burdened by high-cost purchases but upstream industries are protected, this means damaging downstream industries. Furthermore, if raw materials for downstream industry are expensive, the price of their final products will also be high and the public will lose out.

"In that case, the structure of our domestic industry would also be damaged. This cannot be allowed," he said.

Furthermore, if the facilities to be granted do not in the future produce a strongly competitive domestic product, those facilities will not be granted to anyone," asserted Sanyoto.

* Clove Farmers Still Awaiting SWKP Funds

95SE0082D Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 19 Dec 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Manado, 19 Dec—Clove farmers in North Sulawesi have expressed disappointment that their farmer special compulsory deposits (SWKP) have not been repaid, although the administrative requirements for receiving their SWKP funds have been met.

"We greatly need those funds as Christmas and the New Year approach. The government and agencies involved must therefore give serious attention to this matter," said Wem Tulung of Tomohon Subdistrict, D. Palit of Sonder Subdistrict, and Jeffri of Ratahan Subdistrict in separate interviews with PEMBARUAN on Saturday, 17 December, in Manado.

"The government and agencies involved and the managers of clove marketing have contacted clove farmers, because at the beginning of November, when the first payment from the 27.8 billion rupiah in SWKP funds was made by Hutomo Mandala Putra, general chairman of the Clove Support and Marketing Board (BPPC), in the presence of the minister of cooperatives, (and passed on by the governor at the beginning of December) the farmers were promised that realization would be completed no later than the second week of this month."

"It turns out, however, that payment of the SWKP funds is still not finished," Tulung said.

The member of the "Samaroinsong" KUD [Village Unit Cooperative] said that of 2,000 kilograms sold in 1992, he has not received any of the SWKP funds. "This is very disappointing. SWKP funds should not continue to be held, because they are our right," he said.

D. Palit and Jeffri P. said that, since the government and agencies involved had promised to pay the SWKP before Christmas 1994 and New Year's Day 1995, they should fulfill their promise. They should not simply talk without any reality.

It has been reported that the SWKP payments have been intentionally postponed so that the 27.8 billion rupiah can draw interest, and no one knows where the interest money goes. This hurts farmers, said Palit, who has SWKP funds of more than 6 million rupiah.

Concern

Meanwhile, three members of the North Sulawesi Regional Legislature whom PEMBARUAN reached in their offices for reactions, namely Rene Sumampouw, S.H. [Master of Law], Secretary of the Development Function Faction; Drs. A.D. Frederik, deputy chairman of Commission E (Public Welfare); and Dr. Brando Lengkey, secretary of Commission B (Economy), expressed concern and regret that all SWKP funds have not been paid to farmers.

"The government and agencies involved should have paid the SWKP funds quickly, because farmers greatly need them. Thus, this problem must be resolved quickly and not be ignored as it is now, causing farmers to suffer. It is much to be regretted that the agencies involved are careless and too late," said Sumampouw, S.H.

Sumampouw and Frederik said that farmers who have completed administrative procedures should be given SWKP funds immediately without waiting for others, because many people who do not own clove trees sold cloves through KUD's in 1992.

Thus, farmers who actually own clove trees should be paid, not TNC and KUD managers who do not own trees.

Incomplete

Meanwhile, when Drs. Hezky Montong, chairman of the North Sulawesi KUD Main Office, was asked for confirmation, he admitted that not all clove farmers have received SWKP payments. This has happened because many still have not completed administrative procedures at KUD's, such as providing the number of clove trees belonging to village chiefs and complying with other provisions. "Thus, it is not intentional but because many farmers have not completed administrative procedures," Montong said, adding that he will try to see that the payment of all SWKP funds is completed by the third week of this month.

When Drs. G.A.M. Saroinsong, chief of the SWKP Funds Control Team for North Sulawesi, was reached at the governor's office on Saturday, 17 December, he said that not all SWKP funds have been paid, because many administrative procedures at the KUD's have not been completed. Thus, although SWKP funds are ready, they cannot be paid if administrative procedures at the KUD's are not completed.

He said that payment of SWKP funds does not depend on whether individual farmers have completed administrative procedures, but all farmers/members must complete their administrative procedures before SWKP funds can be paid. Thus, each KUD is looked at, not individual farmers or members, he said.

He added that, according to plan, the 27.8 billion rupiah in SWKP funds are to be completely paid by the third week of December, or before Christmas.

Farmers need to be patient, because the control team is trying to see that this can be finalized as quickly as possible. According to Drs. G.A.M. Saroinsong, as of Saturday only six of 146 KUD's had received SWKP funds, which totaled 100 million rupiah.

Philippines

'Senior' DPRK Envoy Arrives for Formal Talks

BK3101063695 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A senior North Korean diplomat arrived Monday, and a Filipino diplomatic source said he will hold talks on establishing formal diplomatic relations.

Yi To-sop, the North Korean ambassador to Thailand, and a companion (?Roh Chang Choe) were whisked away by the Philippine protocol officers soon after their arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. They made no statements.

A Filipino diplomatic source, speaking on condition of anonymity, by the North Koreans would meet with Philippine officials to discuss formal relations. [sentence as heard]

A press conference was scheduled for Tuesday.

The Philippines maintains relations with South Korea and sent troops to the UN contingent during the Korean War.

The two governments have made discreet (?contract) in recent years aimed at establishing formal ties.

Ramos, Mahathir Discuss Proton Assembly Plant

BK3101015395 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Malaysia is in the process of negotiating with Indonesia, Vietnam, and China to set up Proton car assembly plants in those countries. Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said this to journalist during a joint news conference with Philippine President Fidel Ramos at the end of his two-day visit to the Philippines:

[Begin recording, in English] [Mahathir] Actually we [words indistinct] Indonesia about the possibility of assembling the Proton cars in Indonesia, but that has not yet been finished due to some (?political conflicts) in Indonesia. But apart from that we have projects in Vietnam, but not in ASEAN, and also in China.

[Unidentified correspondent] Thank you.

[Mahathir] We will certainly [words indistinct] in the Malaysian participation in the Philippine economy, especially in the area of opening up a new industrial estates. Maybe plantations; there are quite a large piece of government-owned land around this area which might be useful for the cultivation of fruit crops or palm oil. But we will have to look into that. There is also the possibility of opening up or constructing another small port because there is some deep water areas here. So these are the general areas that we discussed. [end recording]

President Fidel Ramos welcomed Malaysia's intent to venture into the plantation sector and open up new industrial estates in the Philippines, including the opening of palm oil plantations and orchards. Ramos said that Malaysian investment in the Philippines has been very prominent recently. At least 10 agreements have been signed since Dr. Mahathir's visit to the country last year. These include agreements in the tourism, heavy industry, and property development sectors. [passage omitted]

Dr. Mahathir and President Fidel Ramos jointly conducted a ceremony today to mark the laying of the foundation stone for Malaysia's Proton car assembly plant in Alaminos, Pangasinan Province, about 300 km north of Manila. During the ceremony, Dr. Mahathir and his wife Datin Sri Dr. Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali planted a palm tree that was brought from Malaysia. President and Mrs. Fidel Ramos also planted a tree. [passage omitted]

The 157 million ringgit Proton assembly plant is the first of its kind outside Malaysia. The project is a joint venture between Otomobil Nasional [National Automobile] and Diversified Resources Berhad [Limited] and several Philippine partners. The joint venture is known as Proton Philipinas Corporation, or PPC. The plant is built on a 27 hectare site.

President and Mrs. Fidel Ramos led the state dignitaries in bidding farewell to Dr. Mahathir at the end of his two-day visit today. Present at the airport, among others, was Datuk Zainuddin Abdul Rahman, Malaysian ambassador to the Philippines.

Government Monitors Ships Passing by Spratlys

BK3101050095 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 2230 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The government vigilantly monitors ships passing by the Spratly Islands to make sure disputes among the country claimants will not be blown out of proportion. According to Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Rodolfo Severino, this government action is based on the ASEAN Declaration on South China Sea of 1992. The declaration calls for peaceful solutions to the Spratlys dispute. Severino clarifies that the government claims not only eight Spratly islands, but all of the islands and waters of the Kalayaan [Freedom] group of islands.

MNLF Chief Calls Peace Talks 'Successful'

BK3101070895 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 2230 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] MNLF [Moro National Liberation Front] Chief Nur Misuari revealed that the government has already agreed that the Muslim group will set up a provisional government next year with Zamboanga City as its capital site. Misuari added that the establishment of a provisional government is part of the 1976 Tripoli Agreement. Misuari made this announcement during the second day of the third round of peace talks between the government and the MNLF being held in Zamboanga City. According to Misuari, despite heated debate on several matters, the talks can be described as successful. He added that according to Ambassador Manuel Yan, the provisional government will be set up in 1996.

Thailand

Thaksin Announces Resignation as Foreign Minister

BK3101043095 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0400 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Police Lieutenant Colonel Thaksin Chinnawat has announced his resignation from the post of minister of foreign affairs at the cabinet meeting today, but the resignation will go into effect on 11 February so he is able to complete unfinished work.

Thaksin told reporters the reasons for his resignation—that he does not want to make any change regarding his qualifications, which are illegal, in order to comply with the new constitution and he also deems it inappropriate to wait for someone to make a ruling on his qualifications.

Chuan Calls Action 'Correct'

BK3101134795 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The prime minister has said that Foreign Minister Thaksin Chinnawat did the right thing by deciding to resign to resolve the controversy over whether his qualifications comply with the Constitution. He told reporters at Government House this afternoon that he has received the foreign minister's letter of resignation. He will consult with Major General Chamlong Simuang, the Phalang Tham Party leader, regarding Thaksin's replacement:

[Begin recording] [Chuan] Minister Thaksin was appointed while the old Constitution was in use. The same Constitution is still in use as of today.

[Unidentified correspondent] How will other countries view the frequent turnover in Thai foreign ministers? How do you plan to handle this matter in the interest of the country?

[Chuan] Given that the constitutional amendment deals with the issue of a minister's eligibility and has consequently led to doubts, the minister's decision to resign to remove these doubts is correct.

[Correspondent] As the government leader, do you think more care—taking legal and social science principles into account—is needed in administering the country to avoid having people view the government in a negative way?

[Chuan] As a coalition government, the coalition parties have the authority and privilege to propose the names of cabinet ministers. Also, because the previous Constitution did not disqualify this minister, his appointment was not illegal.

[Correspondent] Maj. Gen. Chamlong gave assurances at that time that legal specialists had been consulted. Does he have to accept responsibility for this issue?

[Chuan] You will have to ask him yourself. In fact, we felt at first that if a new Constitution was passed we would have to reconsider the appointment.

[Correspondent] What are the procedures for appointing a new foreign minister?

[Chuan] I will have to consult with Deputy Prime Minister Chamlong in his position as Phalang Tham Party leader.

[Correspondent] Have you talked with him?

[Chuan] Not in detail. We are both aware that Thaksin has already submitted his resignation letter to me. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Officials Fear Great 'Influx' of Karen Refugees

BK3101100295 Bangkok THE NATION in English 31 Jan 95 pp A1, A4

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Thailand is bracing for a possible enormous influx of Burmese refugees as Rangoon's follow-up offensive on remaining Karen strongholds, after the fall of Manerplaw, threatens to drive as many as 100,000 of the country's ethnic populace across the border.

Thai officials in Bangkok and Kanchanaburi said they are closely monitoring the border situation around Bong Ti Pass in Sai Yok district, where about 100 Burmese troops last Saturday attacked and burned down a Karen frontline outpost in Kamawlaw, which is under the 4th Brigade of the Karen National Union (KNU).

The clash took place close to the location where a proposed underground gas pipeline from the Gulf of Martaban to Thailand would pass.

The officials said the Burmese troops withdrew after the clash and that the rival forces are currently confronting each other on opposite banks of the Tenasserim River, which runs parallel to the Thai frontier and between 15 to 40 km from the Thai border.

The Burmese assault on Kamawlaw, about 25 km from the border, took place one day after Burmese troops overran KNU headquarters at Manerplaw, which is located on the west bank of the Moei River opposite Thailand's Tha Song Yang district of Tak province. One Burmese soldier was killed and five others wounded in the clash.

Relief workers and Thai officials confirmed that about 1,000 Karen refugees fled into Thailand due to Saturday's attack on Kamawlaw. They are being housed at Bong Ti school and temple.

Karen officials and relief workers confirmed yesterday that the KNU had already relocated to a safer area about 2,000 people in five villages close to the route the Burmese troops were expected to use.

They speculated that any major Burmese offensive in the southern Tavoy and Mergui districts under the control of the KNU's Fourth Brigade could drive an estimated 100,000 people from 26 villages in the Tenasserim Valley into Thailand.

Thai authorities, while expressing optimism that the Burmese army would not move on to smash the KNU's Fourth Brigade stronghold, said local officers are preparing a site near Bong Ti Pass to accommodate more refugees.

While they agreed that about 100,000 people lived in the Tenasserim Valley in the Tavoy and Mergui areas, they expected far fewer than that number would flee in case of a military crisis. [passage omitted]

An aid worker told THE NATION in an interview yesterday that a consortium of private relief agencies still has sufficient resources to cope with about 10,000 refugees who fled into Thailand after last week's Burmese army operations against Manerplaw and Kawmoora, the KNU's 101 special unit opposite Tak's Mae Sot district.

But "if it is true that the 100,000 people from the Tenasserim Valley will move into Thailand, it could become a crisis," he said.

Kawmoora has been under heavy Burmese mortar fire since early December and the shelling is continuing around the clock, according to Thai border officials.

He added that relief agencies are closely watching the border situation which is changing daily.

A Thai analyst of Burma believes the Burmese army is trying to establish and strengthen itself in strategic areas to cut off communication and transportation between the KNU's Fourth and Sixth Brigades in the two remaining areas controlled by the guerrilla group. The Sixth Brigade is located opposite Tak's Umphang district.

Ruprecht von Arnim, chief representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to Thailand, said in an interview yesterday that his office has been "assured by the Thai government that the refugees will be granted temporary asylum here. So our main worry is being addressed."

He said the UNHCR's second worry, how humanitarian assistance is getting to the people, has also been attended to by a consortium of non-governmental organizations (NGO).

According to relief workers, between 3,000 to 4,000 refugees fled from the Manerplaw area and are residing near the confluence of the Moei and Salween rivers; about 2,000 refugees, who fled from Dawn Gwin, about 50 km north of Manerplaw, are stranded on the Salween River bank about 6,000 fled from Naw Hta area, 30 km south of Manerplaw, to the Moei River bank; and about 1,000 into Bong Ti Pass.

Thaksin's Remarks on Burma Policy Examined

BK3101071695 Bangkok THE NATION in English 31 Jan 95 p A 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Thaksin Chinnawat yesterday defended Thailand's policy of constructive engagement towards Burma.

He said the stance would continue to encourage positive development in Burmese politics.

"Burma has been isolated for 20 years and (the isolation policy) has not been successful. Asean's constructive engagement policy has just been implemented and so far we are not yet able to conclude (whether the Burmese offensive goes against the policy). We should wait and see," Thaksin said.

Asean members, especially Thailand, have argued that their policy has encouraged Burma to open itself up to the world and will help Burma develop a better democracy and human rights record.

Thaksin said Thailand has developed its own perception of peace and prosperity in the region and will "wait for the dust to settle" before making any comments about the Burmese offensive against Karen guerrillas.

"We will make a decision later, after we gather information on the current situation," said the minister.

Thailand, he said, will stay neutral on the Burmese government's assault and capture of the Karen's Manerplaw headquarters.

Thailand's ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs, as well as other security agencies, are closely monitoring the border situation, he added.

Thaksin said it was difficult to pass comment on whether the Burmese junta has the right to suppress the Karens as a means to resolve internal conflicts with ethnic minorities and bring about national reconciliation.

"It is up to the perspective of each group. The Karens would consider the suppression incorrect as they need self-controlled areas, while the Burmese government assumes that Manerplaw is located in Burmese territory but has been used as a front (by Karens) to stage resistance activities," the foreign minister explained.

Thaksin reaffirmed Thailand's commitment to help displaced civilians fleeing the Burmese offensive.

But he stated clearly that Thailand has no policy of establishing refugee camps as doing that would create an unwieldy burden for Thai authorities.

When asked about Karen guerrilla leader Gen Bo Mya's whereabouts, Thaksin responded that Thailand has not received him into the country.

"If the general fled the suppression to here, he would be treated as a normal Karen soldier ... disarmed and given temporary shelter," Thaksin noted.

Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said yesterday that he had not received any report of Bo Mya taking refuge in Thailand.

He added that Thailand would adhere to its humanitarian principles and provide assistance and protection to the thousands of refugees who fled the Burmese assaults last week.

Thai authorities at the border areas have been informed of the policy.

"At least they are given shelter. When the situation permits their safe return, they will be sent back. Thailand has been in constant contact with the Burmese government," said Chuan.

Meanwhile a senior official at the European Union office here said the union is reviewing the current border situation at Manerplaw.

According to the official, the EU position on Burma has not changed. Last year the union said it would engage in "critical political dialogues" with Burma, a move seen by Asean as acknowledging Asean's constructive engagement policy with Burma.

The official said there were no formal ties between the EU and the Burmese government but the EU would continue to provide humanitarian aid to Burmese refugees who fled to Thailand.

The United States government, in a statement released over the weekend, said that the Clinton administration is deeply concerned by reports of attacks and shelling by the Burmese army.

The statement said the Burmese government's actions are alarming in view of the regime's pattern of human rights violations in the context of civil conflict.

An Australian embassy source said Canberra was also disappointed with the Rangoon military junta's use of force against the KNU.

Foreign Minister Gareth Evans is expected to issue a statement today condemning the Burmese troops' latest attack on the KNU.

The latest situation will not however affect the productive political dialogue Australia currently has with Rangoon, according to the source.

Editorial Views Burmese Army Assault on Karens

BK3101093495 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 31 Jan 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Burma Breaks Pledge to Negotiate with Opponents"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The capture of Manerplaw by Burmese forces is only a temporary feather in the cap of the Rangoon regime. It is actually a setback for the policy of national reconciliation. By using force to oust Karens from their long-time headquarters, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) has moved away from peaceful settlement of its internal disputes. Far more importantly, however, SLORC's actions once again have intruded on attempts to keep the Thai-Burma frontier peaceful. The tide of refugees unleashed by the violent Burmese attacks on Manerplaw are certain to have impact on relations between our countries.

For the past year, SLORC leaders have claimed their intention to settle the many internal disputes in their nation peacefully. There have been serious problems in this propaganda effort. For one thing, the junta seized power in 1988 with one of the bloodiest suppressions of a popular uprising in this part of the world. Then, two years later, SLORC overthrew democratic elections to keep control. For no other reason than she won that vote, the regime jailed Aung San Suu Kyi, and has kept her under arrest ever since. Numerous other contenders also were jailed, many on obviously trumped-up charges.

Thus, Burmese leaders faced enormous scepticism when they announced they hoped to negotiate with their political opponents. They gained some credibility a year ago when they failed to mount their annual dry-season offensives against dissident ethnic groups. Indeed, they even gained some minor praise for this apparent patience. Then, last year, two meetings between SLORC commanders and Ms Suu Kyi took place. Again, the regime won limited credit from both Burmese and foreign friends.

In the meantime, Burmese foreign policy also took some turns. Thailand launched its own "constructive engagement" plan. This encouraged Rangoon to participate in the international community, first and foremost affairs of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. The aim of this was to convince SLORC to act more responsibly to its own citizens. In today's world, there is little chance for a nation bent on destroying a struggle for democracy and human rights. For Thailand, an additional goal was calm on the Thai- Burma frontier. Dissident, ethnic groups huddled against the Thai border often have been forced to flee to Thailand during military attacks.

The Burmese army offensive against the Karens last week renewed and enlarged the years-old border problems. Fighting has sent another 8,000 Karen refugees, most of them civilians, to seek the safety and hospitality of Thailand. As it has so frequently in the past, Thailand will provide temporary shelter for these unfortunate people. Once again, we will attempt to make sure the unwilling and frightened visitors do not go hungry. Thai resources and civilian, military and police officials will protect the fleeing refugees.

Let the record be clear, however, as to the cause of all these problems. The Burmese leadership gained power, and has kept it, through unceasing use of force against its citizens. It has suppressed the very democracy it falsely championed through the 1990 elections. It has resorted to torture, imprisonment and exile to repress individual Burmese. It has used military might to crush political opposition, and staged a US $1.5 billion military buildup to achieve it. In short, SLORC has badly violated both its own promises and the trust of both its own people and its neighbours.

The assault on Manerplaw last week was a victory for the Burmese army. It was also a setback for Burma's leaders. Our Foreign Minister Thaksin Chinnawat has correctly pledged temporary shelter and safety for the Karen refugees in Thailand. The United States, among others, has called on Burma to halt its offensive to settle conflicts with the rebels peacefully, as Rangoon has pledged. One result is to set back the already glacier-like improvement in Burma- US relations even on common goals like anti-narcotics projects. A visit to Burma last November by US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia Thomas Hubbard now is seen as effectively wasted.

Efforts must continue to convince SLORC leaders to act responsibly. No one doubts Burma has many problems, and that some of the internal disputes are difficult to settle. Resort to force at this point, however, has badly discredited Rangoon and needlessly saddled Thailand with problems. The refusal by SLORC to settle its disputes peacefully and fairly sets back chances for national reconciliation. Rangoon has promised to negotiate with its opposition. It is time to live up to that promise.

Khmer Troops Fire at Border 'Deliberately'

BK3101095595 Bangkok THE NATION in English 31 Jan 95 p A2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Surin—A task force which oversees Thailand's eastern border has protested to the Cambodian government via the Foreign Ministry over rockets and artillery shells which have fallen on Thai soil during clashes between Cambodian troops and Khmer Rouge guerrillas, military sources said yesterday.

According to the sources, senior officials of the Suranari Task Force believed Cambodian troops have deliberately fired artillery shells into Thailand in an attempt to draw the country into Cambodia's internal conflict.

As Thai rangers were able to see six Cambodian tanks across the border from Thailand, it was therefore impossible that Cambodian rangers could not see the border and were "accidentally" firing into Thailand, the sources said.

A total of 11 shells and rockets were reported to have landed about 10 kilometres inside Thailand in Sisaket province's Kantharalak district on Friday. No casualties were reported but a wooden spirit house was destroyed.

Col Thirasak Ritthiwong, commander of the 16th special task infantry unit, said that Cambodian government troops had succeeded in driving the Khmer Rouge from areas around Ban Chai Niwat, which is in Preah Vihear's Choam Khsan district, after heavy fighting began on Jan 11.

Cambodian troops are now trying to take over the Ban Prapalai area in Choam Khsan district, the latest Khmer Rouge stronghold, according to Thirasak.

Thaksin on Joint Commission Meeting in Malaysia

BK2701142395 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 27 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The seventh meeting of the Joint Thai-Malaysian Commission, hosted by Malaysia 24-27 January in Kuala Lumpur, has concluded successfully and achieved much in the area of cooperation in the interest of mutual benefit and problem solving.

Speaking to a Thai news agency correspondent in Kuala Lumpur, Foreign Minister Thaksin Chinnawat said that there was fine coordination by both sides to solve various matters, such as fishing concerns. It is evident that the seizure of Thai fishing boats decreased considerably in the past year. The petroleum and natural gas exploration project in the overlapping joint Thai-Malaysian development area will be used as the model to solve the fishing problem.

In addition, an agreement was reached on issues involving bus transportation cooperation. Minor technical and execution problems remain in setting up border posts to comply with principles of international law. The demarcation will be speeded up so that it will be completed in the near future so that it can be used as the model in demarcation of Thai borders with other neighboring countries.

Border Pass Agreement With Malaysia Noted

BK2801110295 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Jan 95 p 3

[Report by Phanrawi Tansuphaphon from Kuala Lumpur]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thailand and Malaysia have agreed in principle to extend the duration of border passes from three months to five years to facilitate Thai nationals working in Malaysia.

But Foreign Minister Thaksin Chinnawat said yesterday the two countries had still to work out the details of the proposed extension.

He hoped it would be implemented as soon as possible, he said.

Thailand and Malaysia also discussed extending the area allowed for workers holding border passes from 25 kilometres from the border to the entire bordering provinces and states.

The five provinces of Thailand are Songkhla, Pattani, Yala, Satun and Narathiwat, and on the Malaysian side the states are Penang, Perlis, Kedah, Perak and Kelantan.

Mr Thaksin has just attended a two-day meeting of the Thai-Malaysian Joint Commission in Kuala Lumpur which he co-chaired together with Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Fishery cooperation, border demarcation and border trade were all discussed at the meeting.

Mr Thaksin said Thailand proposed that Malaysia enter into a joint venture on fisheries in Malaysian waters including the development area in the Gulf of Thailand where the two countries are jointly exploring gas and petroleum deposits.

Bangkok proposed similar cooperation in Sarawak at last year's meeting but few Thai fishing companies were interested.

Mr Thaksin said about 50 Thai trawlers were seized by the Malaysian government last year, five fewer than in 1993.

The meeting also discussed the unsettled border line at kilometre marker 1 and 70.

At kilometre 1, the law does not allow the two countries to fix the boundary on the Golok River, leaving both sides to fix the frontier in different areas.

Thailand considered the evidence from Malaysia for marking the frontier at kilometre marker 70 on the Golok River, he said.

"I would like to see the Thai-Malaysian boundary fixed as soon as possible... and use it as a model in resolving issues with other neighbouring countries," he said.

The Malaysian minister expressed his satisfaction on border cooperation, saying:

"I am happy to note the Committee to Review Border Cooperation has been able to mobilise efforts to address issues and problems peculiar to the common border."

"The Land Boundary Committee has completed its work on investigating and refixing boundary pillars and markers in the Padang Besa area. The Joint Working Group on the examination and rectification of errors found in both countries is progressing well."

Another issue needing resolution is the transport of goods crossing the border.

The Thai side wants Malaysia to reduce import taxes.

Mr Badawi proposed opening a transport route through Thailand from Malaysia to Laos to link Malaysia with Indochina.

Commerce Minister Seeks More EU Market Access

BK3101095995 Bangkok THE NATION in English 31 Jan 95 p B2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thailand has asked the EU [European Union] to open more markets to Thai exports after the union admitted three new members, Sweden, Austria and Finland, possibly having a negative impact on Thai exports to those three countries.

Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon yesterday met with John Gwyn Morgan, Ambassador and head of the delegation of the Commission of the European Community to Thailand, to inform him that senior officials at the commerce ministry wish to travel to the EU for trade talks.

"We want the EU to import more of our products or compensate for the trade that Thailand may lose when the three countries become members of the EU from Jan 1 this year," he said.

Karun Kittisathaphon, deputy permanent secretary, will lead the delegation to Geneva on Feb 3.

Thailand wants the EU to give it a grace period for the raising of import tax on exports to the three countries. Thailand also will seek compensation if the EU cannot agree to the tax changes. Import tax in the three countries before they became EU members was quite low compared to the general EU level, particularly on rice, canned tuna, pineapple, shoes and toys.

Goods for which Thailand received tax privileges under the Generalized System of Preference (GSP), such as plastic products, rubber, leather and shoes, may lose these privileges.

Finland and Sweden did not set a quota on garment imports from Thailand, but as a result of these countries joining the EU, 17 Thai items will be limited by EU quota.

The EU will also apply counter-vailing duty (CVD) to imported products, such as lighters, watches and television receivers, which the EU finds receiving subsidies from the manufacturer's government, and anti-dumping duty (AD) on cheap products flooding its market, but the three new members have never applied these measures in the past.

Thailand will also ask the EU to open its market for agriculture products. Since the EU has expanded from 12 to 15 members, it has to increase the amount of food imported.

During the world trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the EU market open for agriculture products was based on it having only 12 members .

Trade between Thailand and Austria in 1993 was worth US$275.06 million and last year (Jan-June) it was US$117.24 million, with the Thai trade deficit being US$11.60 million.

Vietnam

Official Press Steps Up 'Cold War' With France

BK3101100595 Bangkok BANGKOK POST (INSIDE INDOCHINA Supplement) in English 31 Jan 95 p 2

[Report by Suphaphon Kanwerayothin in Hanoi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vietnam intensified its cold war with the French government when the head of its official news agency launched an unprecedented trilingual attack against the Hanoi bureau chief of Agence France Presse.

Last Thursday's edition of the daily TIN TUC BUOI CHIEU (Evening News) carried an article accusing AFP's Philippe Agret of "inventing a story" ahead of an official announcement about the event he wrote about, the eight plenum of the Communist Party's central committee which ended on January 23.

The author of that article is Vietnam News Agency director general Do Phuong, who is also a party central committee member and a parliamentarian.

The state news organisation publishes the country's only two other foreign language dailies—VIETNAM NEWS (English) and VIETNAM COURIER (French).

Friday's edition of VIETNAM NEWS carried, for the first time in its five years of publication, front-page "Opinion Column" with the debut piece titled "Agret's journalistic kitchen" by Do Phuong.

The VIETNAM COURIER on Friday carried a story headlined "L'art de 'fabriquer les articles' du journaliste Agret" by the same author.

Before his articles appeared in these three VNA publications, Do Phuong was summoned for talks with Nguyen Duc Binh, a politbureau member in charge of ideology on Wednesday afternoon.

Agret, a full-timer in Hanoi for two years, told INSIDE INDOCHINA he stood by his story about signs of division in Vietnam's communist party leadership over the implementation of administrative reforms and separation of powers into an executive, legislative and judicial arms.

AFP sent a letter of protest to Do Phuong over the personal attacks through the official media.

The French news agency said it hoped the matter would be resolved and that cooperation with VNA would continue. INSIDE INDOCHINA could not reach AFP regional director Denis Brulet for comment.

But the barrage of attacks unleashed by Do Phuong showed there was more to the issue than the reason he cited: that the AFP story cast the party leadership in an improper light.

Through such a senior personality as Do Phuong, the leadership communicated its strong protest, reflecting its feelings toward France as a result of several recent incidents involving France.

First, Hanoi dislikes the Vietnamese service of state-operated Radio France International [RFI].

The VNA boss took to task the fact that the AFP story was immediately picked up and broadcast repeatedly over RFI.

Through its EVENING NEWS, VNA last October described RFI as "a very bad news service" whose Vietnamese language service "often disseminated invented news stories with the intention to tarnish the reputation of Vietnam".

VNA vehemently denied a report French nationals were working for the French daily it then just launched.

VNA said there were no French citizens working for the daily.

Together with the Vietnamese service of the British Broadcasting Corporation, RFI's Vietnamese service is staffed by Vietnamese migrants and is viewed as hostile to the communist government in Hanoi.

Next there is the Paris-based Vietnam Committee on Human Rights led by Vietnamese migrants. The group has constantly proclaimed evidence of Hanoi's oppression of religious freedom.

At one point in his comments the VNA chief branded Agret "a wing of Tubon", in reference to French Minister of Culture Jacques Tubon, the latest subject of anti-French rhetoric from Hanoi.

The French minister's decision to award the Knight of the Order of Arts and Literature, the highest distinction, to dissident writer Duong Thu Huong drew fire from government-sanctioned cultural circles.

Tubon was chided as "uncultivated", while Huong's literary talent were questioned by those circles.

The 47-year-old writer on January 17 returned from a five-month stay in France.

The VNA director-general's attack on the AFP journalist also came at the time of a review, ordered last month by the Communist Party, for the authorities to assess the role of foreign media as well as implications of foreign companies' participation in the publication business in Vietnam.

Le Duc Anh Pays Tet Visit to Bac Thai

BK3101015895 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Summary] "You are invited to listen to a report by Vietnam Radio correspondent Truong Cong Hoa on State President Le Duc Anh's working visit to Bac Thai Province:

"Dear friends, amid the celebrations to mark the party's anniversary and the lunar new year, from 27 to 28 January President Le Duc Anh visited cadres and officials in Dinh Hoa Village, a safe zone during the anti-French war of resistance; Bac Thai Province; and the First Military Region.

"The leading comrades of Bac Thai Province happily briefed the president on the province's socioeconomic improvements. They said that Bac Thai's economy has recorded significant development due to the implementation of the renovation undertaking."

Bac Thai Province's industrial production accounts for 30 percent of its domestic production. Many local factories have renovated their equipment to increase production. Bac Thai is also developing its agriculture and forestry production. Thus the local socioeconomic situation and the medical, cultural, and educational services have been greatly improved.

"President Le Duc Anh reminded Bac Thai's leaders to pay more attention to improving the people's knowledge. In order to carry out the national industrialization and modernization undertaking, we must improve the knowledge of workers and peasants so they can quickly gain an understanding of modern science and technology. The province must achieve the targets set in its program to eliminate starvation and alleviate poverty. Bac Thai lies in the former Viet Bac Military Zone; therefore, local cadres and soldiers must develop their revolutionary tradition and unite in their determination to amass wealth along with the entire country."

During this trip, State President Le Duc Anh also paid a Tet visit to the First Region Military Command, the Bac Thai Police Headquarters, and the Thai Nguyen Metallurgist Complex [TNMC]. At the TNMC, after hearing a report on steel production in recent years, the president hailed the efforts by the TNMC cadres, engineers, and workers to increase investment and set up joint ventures with national and foreign partners.

"He reminded the TNMC leaders that apart from calculating cost effectiveness, it is necessary to apply measures to maintain properly the facilities built by the PRC to contribute to strengthening and developing the friendship, unity, and mutual assistance between Vietnam and China."

The president also spent a great deal of time visiting Dinh Hoa Village, a safe zone for the party Central Committee and the government during the anti-French years. Speaking to representatives of families with meritorious service, cadres, party members, and people in the village, he said:

[Begin Le Duc Anh recording] "This village obtained that honor. I hope that the people and comrades will develop and preserve that honor and continue working and studying to uphold it—this is the place where Uncle Ho and our party Central Committee stayed and successfully led the resistance. In the new year, I wish the people and comrades of the entire village good health, happiness, and success." [applause] [end recording]

"Dear friends, before leaving Dinh Hoa, Le Duc Anh planted a tree at the village traditional house. He also reminded the Dinh Hoa party committee and government to develop the revolutionary tradition of the village, use investment capital economically, and build Dinh Hoa into a beautiful and civilized village, thus fulfilling Uncle Ho's call for food, clothing, and education for every citizen."

Do Muoi Pays Tet Visit to Hanoi People

BK3101015795 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Summary] "On the occasion of the 'Year of the Pig' Spring Festival and the 65th anniversary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, Party General Secretary Do Muoi paid a Tet visit to a number of grass-roots establishments" and the people in Hanoi on 28 and 29 January.

On the morning of 28 January, "the comrade general secretary visited the 10th Tailoring Corporation." He hailed the corporation for its export achievements and its efforts to improve the welfare of its workers.

"On the same day, the comrade visited the HANOI MOI Press Printing Enterprise. The general secretary attended a get-together held by the cadres and workers of the enterprise to jubilantly recount their achievements." He cordially wished them greater achievements in the coming lunar new year.

"On 29 January, the comrade visited the Dong Xuan Knitwear Factory", one of the establishments noted for high achievements in production and business over the past 10 years." He urged workers of the factory to continue to struggle to remain as a prime mover of the country's knitwear sector.

Also during the the above two pre-Tet days, Comrade Do Muoi visited Elders Nguyen Duc Thien and Ngo Xuan Yen, the two veteran cadres who had held many important positions in the government in the past. He inquired about their everyday lives and wished them good health in the coming lunar new year.

State Bank Governor Outlines 1995 Tasks

BK3001034395 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 26 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The TUAN TIN TUC [WEEKLY NEWS] recently carried an interview by its correspondent with State Bank Governor Cao Sy Kiem on the renovation of banking activities to suit the current market mechanism.

After reviewing the activities of the banking sector in 1994, Governor Cao Sy Kiem said that the breakthrough in relations with international financial and monetary organizations in March 1993 marked a turning point in accelerating the process of Vietnam's joining the international financial community. Vietnam's general economic objectives in 1995 are to contain the inflation rate to less than 10 percent while ensuring an annual economic growth of 9-10 percent. He said that to attain these objectives, the banking sector in 1995 will continue to implement the four-point directive set in 1994, which include renovating the banking activities to suit the market mechanism, modernizing the banking industry, improving the organizational model and training of cadres, and strengthening control and inspection work.

Party's 'Creativeness' in Renovation Viewed

BK3001051595 Hanoi VNA in English 1532 GMT 29 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 29—Comprehensive review of the results of the Communist Party of Vietnam's 'doi moi' (renovation) process is underway in anticipation of the coming 65th anniversary of the party (Feb.3). On this occasion, NHAN DAN daily has run an article written by Tran Trong Tan from Ho Chi Minh City on the party's creativeness in leading 'doi moi' process. Following are the main ideas of his article:

The 'doi moi' (renovation) process launched by the party has been so far crowned with encouraging great achievements. This is the result of the party's creative application of Marxist-Leninist theory, and better research and development of Ho Chi Minh thought. The party's creative leadership can be seen in the following major points:

First, from its VI-th [Roman numeral six] congress, the party began a policy of 'doi moi' in order to bring into full play the revolutionary gains, correct its mistakes and work out new policies to conform to the current situation in the country and in the world. To resolve the country's socio-economic crisis, the first ten years of the doi moi process is regarded as of strategic importance.

Second, to successfully carry out the reform process, the party has to re-study the Marxist-Leninist theory to shed light on practical activities. Particularly, it has attached special importance to the practical review work. Regarding new policies, the party decided to implement them on an experimental basis first and draw experiences and then apply them on a larger scale later.

Third, renovation must begin from the renovation of thinking because correct understanding will lead to correct actions. In many years we had some wrong concepts about socialism. We held that socialism cannot accept a market economy and we misunderstood the elimination of private ownership. We talked about scientific socialism, but in practice, we failed to act along laws, and did things according to our wishful thinking, particularly in industrialization, socialist transformation, economic management, and distribution. The party also has not grasped thoroughly Ho Chi Minh thought on socialism.

Fourth, in the renewal of thinking, the thinking about economy must be renewed first of all. The party has paid special attention to apply the law on relations of production conforming to the characteristics and level of forces of production. It has studied, applied and developed Lenin's viewpoints on market economy in his new economic policy, and abolished the managing mechanism of the centralized, subsidized economy and introduced a multi-sector economy along the lines of the market oriented mechanism under the state management in the directions of socialism.

Fifth, in the renovation process the party has firmly maintained the socialist orientation. The socialist orientation has been expressed in the party's policies and state's laws, in the execution of the leading role of the state run enterprises as the foundation of the multi-sector economy, and in the economic development going hand in hand with progress of social equality and in the implementation of the working people's rights.

Sixth, economic renovation should be carried out in parallel with political renovation, in which the former is fundamental and the latter must be carried out gradually and firmly. Political renovation means to build up a state of law of the people, by the people and for the people under the leadership of the party. All citizens have both interests and obligations. Democracy is applied for the people, while dictatorship for hostile forces. Political pluralism with multi-opposition party system is unacceptable.

Seventh, in the renovation process man is the decisive factor and he is both objective and motive. Therefore development of science and technology, training and education are leading national policies. Besides infrastructure works, the building of public facilities, including education, healthcare and cultural establishments must be enhanced to assist in the development of people's health and general knowledge, and training talents and officials.

Eighth, renovation in the ideological-cultural work is to promote freedom of ideology and creation.

Ninth, renovation of external relations is to implement diversification, multilateralization of international relations, cooperation combined with struggle in line with Vietnam's policy to be a friend to all nations for peace, independence and development to carry out an open door policy in the spirit of firmly maintaining national independence and sovereignty.

Finally, renovation and reorganization of the party and strengthening its capacity of leadership and fighting is a key problem.

In the immediate future, the country's renovation process will enter a new stage: that of accelerating national industrialization and modernization, increasing economic growth within a reasonable, harmonious economic system, and fighting the danger of lagging behind other countries in the region.

Australia

Ministers To Raise Dairy Subsidies With Talbott

BK3101084995 Hong Kong AFP in English 0810 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Canberra, Jan 31 (AFP)—Senior Australian ministers will try in talks with US Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott here Wednesday to persuade Washington to think again about dairy subsidies threatening key Australian markets in Asia.

Talbott, due here late Tuesday, is scheduled to hold talks with Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, Trade Minister Bob McMullan and Defence Minister Robert Ray and will meet Prime Minister Paul Keating later Wednesday.

Washington's decision announced last week to extend dairy export subsidies to Asian markets has caused a bitter backlash among Australian farmers that is now seriously worrying Canberra.

Under its latest Dairy Export Incentive Program (DEIP) allocations, the United States will offer about 22,000 tonnes of cheap milk powder, butterfat and cheese to Asian countries.

It has already sold subsidised exports of skim milk powder to the Philippines, Thailand and Malaysia.

McMullan's meeting with Talbott is intended to focus on the subsidies issue and Evans also plans to raise it with him.

National Farmers' Federation president Donald McGauchie accused the United States Tuesday of double standards on trade, demanding Canberra make its feelings clear to Talbott.

McGauchie said Talbott must be made aware of Australian anger over the dairy sales, which could cost the domestic industry 20 million dollars (15 million US) this year.

Conservative opposition trade spokesman Tim Fischer also called for government action, saying Prime Minister Paul Keating should directly intervene with "his friend", US President Bill Clinton.

"If our negotiators cannot achieve some sort of breakthrough, and Trade Minister Bob McMullan has admitted their efforts are likely to be in vain, then it is time to resort to stronger tactics, including using the Prime Minister," Fischer said.

Australian Ambassador Don Russell and Australian Dairy Industry Council chairman Pat Rowley were due to meet US officials in Washington Tuesday to express concern over the subsidies.

"The extension of dairy export subsidies completely underlines US support for trade reform and repudiates President Clinton's September 1993 commitment not to harm Australian exports," McGauchie said in a statement.

McGauchie said Talbott must be told "in no uncertain terms" that Canberra and Australian farmers were very angry at the extension of unfair US dairy export subsidies into Asian markets.

"He must take a blunt message home that the global credibility of the US on trade reform is on the line and that any further extension of US export subsidies will undermine any progress made in the GATT and APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation]."

The dairy export subsidies are believed to be an American attempt to grab market share in Asia before new rules restricting the use of agricultural subsidies come into force later this year.

Those rules, negotiated last year under the trade watchdog of the 120-nation General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) are expected to boost world agricultural trade by tens of billions of dollars a year.

Australia and the United States are both members of GATT's successor, the World Trade Organisation, and both belong to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum which the two hope will become a free trade area.

The 18-nation APEC also includes Japan, the six Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) members, China and other Asian and Latin American countries.

Liberal Party Elects John Howard Leader

BK3001062595 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0100 GMT 30 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] John Howard has been elected federal leader of the Liberal Party at a party room meeting in Canberra. He replaces Alexander Downer who announced last week that he would stand down as leader. Peter Costello has been reelected as deputy Liberal leader. Liberal Party's acting whip, David Hawker, emerged from the party meeting to make the announcement.

[Begin Hawker recording] Alexander Downer formally stood down as leader. Nominations were then called for a new leader. John Howard stood with a sole nomination and therefore has been elected unopposed as the new leader of Liberal Party. [end recording] [passage omitted]

New Zealand

Bolger Welcomes U.S. Invitation To Visit

BK3101062695 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 31 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger says he has received an invitation for an official visit to the United States, ending an 11-year diplomatic standoff between the two countries over Wellington's antinuclear policy. Mr. Bolger told the New Zealand media that the invitation was a significant step forward and he was delighted to accept. The visit is planned for 27 March. New Zealand remains suspended from the ANZUS [Australia-New Zealand-U.S. Defense Pact] military alliance with the United States and Australia over its banning of nuclear-powered and nuclear-armed vessels from its territorial waters. Despite New Zealand's continued antinuclear stance relations with Washington have warmed considerably in the past 12 months.

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